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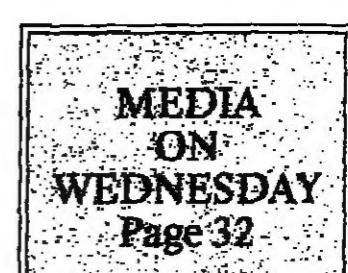
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THE TIMES



No. 64,475

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28 1992

45p

Major goes face to face with Tory rebels over Maastricht

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major has embarked on a make-or-break attempt to save his leadership by appealing personally to Conservative MPs to support his strategy for ratifying the Maastricht treaty.

With senior Tory MPs openly acknowledging that Mr Major's future depends on the passage of the treaty legislation, the prime minister last night began a series of face-to-face talks with backbenchers to convince them of the economic benefits of Maastricht and to win over potential rebels. He also asked to be given the opportunity of addressing all Tory MPs at a meeting tomorrow night.

He will leave the 1922 committee in no doubt of his determination to see the ratification bill through and to prevent what yesterday he called the folly of Britain losing its influence in Europe. Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, began seeing the diehard opponents, and other ministers

■ After a number of bruising days, the prime minister has decided to confront the doubters in his party individually. He has also asked to address all Tory MPs at a meeting tomorrow night

week's debate has not been ruled out. Although Mr Major would face accusations of an almighty U-turn, it is an outcome that would satisfy most Tory MPs. It would also reassure many on the Labour side, who are worried that if they oppose the government next week they might compromise their pro-Maastricht credentials.

Mr Major's gamble comes in the face of internal party calculations, which suggest that he could be defeated next week. Up to 40 Tory MPs have indicated that they will vote against Mr Major in any overt trial of strength over Maastricht triggered by a substantive motion.

It is a risk that he may have calculated will pay off because of the dilemma facing the right of the party. They see Kenneth Clarke, the ardent pro-European home secretary, as the most likely beneficiary of Mr Major's downfall. One right-wing minister said: "Our aim must be to save the prime minister from the people around him who are out of touch with the party. Ken Clarke cannot lose either his views prevail or the prime minister goes."

Mr Major and his colleagues will spend the next two days trying to pick off the rebels before deciding which route to take tomorrow. Mr Major's preference remains to back the principles of Maastricht in an unambiguous attempt to defeat the rebels. But many ministers, some of them close to him, still doubt that he can win back sufficient support.

Mr Major knows that as few as 31 Tory defectors could seal his fate. However, he will be assisted today when the Danish government sets out its plans for reversing its voters' rejection of the Maastricht treaty. The government proposes a series of protocols enabling Denmark to opt out of the single currency, defence and citizenship aspects of the treaty. The disclosure of the plan will help counter the argument of Labour and the Eurosceptics that British ratification should not proceed until the Danish position is known.

The prime minister began his crusade to woo the party rebels after Commons question time yesterday. He called about ten MPs, some wavering

and some supporters, to his room at the Commons for the first of what will become regular consultations over the months ahead.

The first batch included Angela Browning, John Greenway, David Evans, Keith Manley and Eric Pickles. The group, which included several members who joined Parliament for the first time in April, represented a spectrum of views about Europe. Mr Major was reported afterwards to have emphasised the economic case for Maastricht.

The threatened civil war in the Conservative party came closer yesterday as the rival groups attacked each other in public. In early morning broadcasts Sir George Gardner, chairman of the right-wing '92 Group, urged the prime minister to back off and stop "bullying the party with these rather stupid and meaningless threats of a general election".

Angry pro-Europeans, some of whom were members of the same group, retaliated. One fellow member of the group accused Sir George of setting himself up as a power-broker to determine government policy.

From the left Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East, said the vast majority of backbenchers were "sick and tired of a vociferous minority of

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To fight or not to fight: a smiling John Major shows no sign of strain in Downing Street yesterday

DTI civil servants shifted after coal debacle

By PETER RIDDELL
POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR civil servants in the department of trade and industry have, in a virtually unprecedented manner, been held responsible for the government's debacle last week over pit closures while DTI ministers have stayed in place.

Robert Priddle, the deputy secretary in charge of energy policy including the coal industry, has suddenly been shifted to a new post in the DTI. The official explanation from the department is that since the government has committed itself to examine afresh the future of the coal industry, it makes sense not to have people at the top who were involved in the development of the previous policy, so that they are not re-examining their own navel.

In addition, a special new review team has been set up to carry out the review of coal policy, separate from the existing division dealing with the industry. So the key officials dealing with the review of coal policy during the next three months will be different from those involved in the discussions leading up to the announcement of the closures two weeks ago, and the subsequent climbdown.

Civil servants are almost never held responsible, or shifted, as a result of a failure of policy. There have, for example, been no changes in the Treasury or the Bank of England following sterling's withdrawal from the exchange rate mechanism on September 16.

The convention has been that ministers are held responsible for policy mistakes, but there have been no moves to shift either Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, or Tim Eggar, the energy minister.

Subsidy rejected, page 9

Lawyer's granny defends the beach that never was



FROM TOM WALKER IN LUXEMBOURG

QUESTION: When is a beach not a beach? Answer: When it is at Blackpool and the British government says it is not. Britain is in the Euro-dock to explain why bathers had to brave dog excrement on the shore and raw sewage in the water off a resort made famous in countless postcards like that above.

According to counsel for Whitehall, locked in a row with the European Community over the water standards off the Golden Mile, the beach, before 1987, was not in fact a bathing area.

In reply, a puzzled lawyer for the Commission asked the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg yesterday why his grandmother and millions of others had happily bathed at Blackpool since the turn of the century.

According to John Collins, for the British government,

Britain, before 1987, recognised as bathing areas at all in Scotland and Northern Ireland. And, since Blackpool was not among the 27, there was nothing wrong at the time but bathers per mile were congregated.

Mr Collins described "actual surveillance" of supposed

popular British beaches that showed many were being used by fewer than 100 bathers.

In his tireless efforts to delineate when a beach is not a beach, he added that Britain also had a "grey area", between 750 and 1,500 bathers per mile, where local councils and water authorities could decide if they were bathing areas in EC terms.

Through these pre-1987 figures, the government deftly managed to whittle down the number of bathing areas in Britain subject to EC rules on water quality to 27. Hand-

ily, this meant there were no bathing areas at all in Scotland and Northern Ireland. And, since Blackpool was not among the 27, there was nothing wrong at the time but bathers per mile were congregated.

Xavier Lewis, counsel for the EC, was not convinced.

He pointed out that Blackpool "was one of the most popular resorts in Europe" with more than 47.5 miles of coastline consumed there each summer. Then, yielding his grudge, he delivered the coup de grâce. "She would have told you that Blackpool was the first place at which she ever went to the seaside at the turn of the century and she bathed at Blackpool almost until the end," he said.

The court will deliver its verdict on December 16.

Sea shunned, page 3

Orkney enquiry blames care staff

By RAY CLANCY

SOCIAL workers who removed nine children aged between eight and 15 from their homes in Orkney in a dawn raid last year were so determined to find evidence of ritual sex abuse that they failed to think before acting, according to a judicial enquiry published yesterday.

The report, the result of an eight-month investigation by Scottish High Court Judge Lord Clyde, is highly critical of the role played by care workers and police who "allowed their thinking to be coloured by undefined suspicions".

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, told the Commons that he was "minded to accept the great majority" of the 194 recommendations in the report, and promised extra resources for social work training.

The children were taken from their homes, flown to the mainland, and sent home five weeks later. No charges were brought over allegations of ritual sex sessions between children and adults in a quarry on the island. All four sets of parents denied any wrongdoing when they gave evidence at the enquiry.

Last night the four families said through their lawyer that they intend to seek substantial damages. They described the report as a complete vindication of their position and demanded an apology for the whole island. Orkney island councillors said they were taken aback by the severity of the criticisms.

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Export boost, page 21

Critics of Major lack an alternative candidate

THE wily sages may shake their heads at the absurdity of the rumours and the title-tattle, but it is speculation time in the bars and corridors of Westminster. Is John Major bluffing about an election? Is he losing his touch? Is his leadership in peril?

Mr Major did not behave like a Tory leader on the way out in the Commons yesterday. The odds are still that the Maastricht bill will be ratified by parliament and that Mr Major will lead his party into the next election. However, MPs have begun to consider the possibility that he might not. Under party rules, there cannot be a formal challenge until the next parliamentary session starts, in 12 months time, but if the bill failed and Mr Major resigned, who would be in the running?

Winners of leadership contests are those who look right at the time rather than early

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS



Heseltine never wise to write him off



Thatcher: no longer available to fight

frontrunners. Trying to identify supporters of a candidate on a left-to-right spectrum is useless. More important is whether a career is advancing or declining. In the Tories' 1990 contest, Michael Heseltine attracted the backing of many ex-ministers. On the second ballot, the Thatcherites or Euro-sceptics as they are now known, split. Some, such as Edward Leigh and James Pawsey, backed Mr Heseltine. Others, such as Nicholas and Ann Winterton, now very critical of government policy, backed Mr Major.

The Euro-sceptics — totalling at most 80, or about a quarter of Tory MPs — do not have a plausible leadership candidate. Their champions, Baroness Thatcher and Lord Tebbit, are now unavailable.

With the exception of free spirits such as John Biffen and Nicholas Budgen, the Euro-sceptics are an unimpressive bunch, largely failed ex-ministers and those who never made under-secretary. None of their backbench spokesmen would draw much support. Kenneth Baker, who has come out against Maastricht, is viewed with as much suspicion by his new associates as by former pro-EC colleagues.

The serious candidates are all in the cabinet. The three frontrunners — Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Douglas Hurd — are even more pro-EC than Mr Major.

Until the latest political troubles began, Mr Clarke enjoyed a following on the Tory right, admired as a combative debater. However, his arguing for Maastricht — plus his contempt for the Thatcherite irreconcilables — have earned him enemies on the right. But his stock is rising.

Mr Heseltine had one of the roughest weeks because of the retreat over pit closures. That has raised questions over his normally sure judgement. But it is never wise to write off Mr Heseltine. His reputation may take time to recover, but he will appeal to those wanting strong leadership. Several Euro-sceptics say privately that they would back him.

Mr Hurd has shown steady

ness and authority during crisis. Although unpopular with the Euro-sceptics, he would attract support from those looking for reassurance.

The only remotely possible contenders among Euro-sceptic sympathisers in the cabinet are Michael Howard and Michael Portillo. Despite a solid ministerial record and a strong election campaign, Mr Howard does not yet have broad support among MPs. Mr Portillo, still under 40, has been in the cabinet for only six months and is the pundit's choice.

This race card underlines the relative strength of Mr Major's position, with no sign of a challenge from within the cabinet, and no serious backbench candidate.

PETER RIDDELL

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Leading article, page 17

Escape clause for Denmark strengthens Major's hand

■ Early publication of Denmark's Maastricht proposal undercuts one of the main arguments of Conservative Euro-sceptics and the Labour party.

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S Conservative-Liberal minority government is due to present its parliament today with a draft "national compromise" for reversing the Danes' rejection of the Maastricht.

The plan, to be finally approved by parliament's EC affairs committee on Friday, calls for special protocols to the treaty allowing Denmark to opt out of plans for joint EC currency, defence, citizenship and law enforcement.

The proposal, virtually identical to that unveiled last week by the opposition majority led by the Social Democrats, will also call for openness, democracy and decentralisation in EC decision-making and minimal interference from Brussels. Denmark will want assurances that the influence of smaller states remains undimmed in any new, extended Community as well as guarantees of closer economic co-operation through the Single Market.

The government wants a clause in the protocol expressing Denmark's willingness to provide aid to poorer EC states.

Poul Schluter, the prime minister, said the plan supported by seven of the eight political parties in parliament — the outsider being the maverick, ultra-rightist Progress Party — had good chances of being accepted by other EC members as well as by the Danish electorate. But the crucial issue of how to get round their refusal to re-open the treaty to accommodate the Danes is evaded.

The support of the Socialist Peoples' party, which led



Danish advocates: Poul Schluter, the prime minister, with Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the foreign minister

Cabinet faces up to Maastricht rebels

Continued from page 1

eccentric rightwingers still grieving over Thatcher's demise, holding ramped up meetings and then descending the staircase grandly to give the government their latest instructions."

As Mr Dykes spoke out his pro-European friends belatedly began organising Maastricht support for the prime minister. Two senior MPs, Sir Anthony Grant and Ray Whiting, formed a special group to plot tactics in support of the cabinet line, and Ian Taylor, a parliamentary aide to William Waldegrave, tried to reactivate the moribund Conservative Group for Europe.

The cabinet also weighed in with an assault on Labour's apparently changing position.

It is clear that if Mr Major is

forced to retreat next week, he will blame Labour's alleged turn; the party is expected to vote against the "paving" motion because it says Mr Major is treating it as a confidence vote. In the Commons yesterday Mr Major accused John Smith of undermining the case for Europe with his "manoeuvrings" over next week's vote. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, openly blamed Labour during a speech in the European parliament for deepening the political crisis over the Maastricht treaty. "In the last few days we seem to have seen a change for the worse in the attitude of the British Labour party which, if confirmed, is a serious matter," he said.

Leading articles, page 17

Whips' instincts to fore in vital motion

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE instincts of the whips will be to the fore this week as the government decides the form of the motion on which it may stake its credibility in the Maastricht debate.

John Major, a former whip, will play the key role in determining what the cabinet can get through the restless parliamentary party. He will be advised by Richard Ryder, the chief whip. Tony Newton, Commons leader, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and, almost certainly, Lord Wakeham, a former chief whip, Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, will also be involved, giving Mr Major the latest state of grassroots opinion.

Mr Major and that ministe-

rial group had a brief discussion on options for a motion yesterday, carefully leaving open the possibility of a technical adjournment motion next Wednesday that would help the prime minister to avoid an outright clash with his backbenchers.

An adjournment motion would make life easier both for the Tory rebels and Labour Euro enthusiasts. The rebels could happily treat it as a vote without any commitment to Maastricht.

Labour MPs who might be worried about seeing the party depart from its pro-Maastricht stance could vote against the government with a clear conscience. The cabinet will make the final decision tomorrow.

Normal pantomime service resumes as dame arrives in style

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

too loud to be an MP. He and Dame Jill settled into their seats to watch.

It would have been hard for Mr Major and Mr Smith to live up to the backdrop or the moment. They didn't Major must be judged the winner because he stayed cocky and upright when Smith ought to have been able to floor him.

We dare not advise Labour leaders what to ask, but we did rather think the question of the day was whether or not the PM deserved the coming Maastricht debate an issue of confidence. Major would nor have answered, of course, but it might have been fun to watch him not answering.

Instead, we watched Mr Smith stage a minor volcanic eruption on the subject of the economy, to be answered by a minor tidal wave of facts and statistics from Mr Major. The commotion went on for some time, augmented by a small attempted earth tremor from Paddy Ashdown. Eventually we were rescued by Roger Evans (C. Monmouth) who reminded MPs of the real Dame Jill Knight?

In recent weeks, the presence behind Mr Major's shoulder at PM's questions of Dame Jill, redoubtable member for Edgbaston and cornerstone of the 1922 committee, has lent an air of opera bouffe to proceedings. A retired actress and one-time star of the *Girls' Gang Show*, the dignity which in later years has settled upon Dame Jill only adds to the diva quality so unmistakable hers. She is the Tory party's cuddly version of Kiri Te Kanawa, perhaps a shade larger and a little more manure.

Dame Jill never less than striking

threat to our nation: "the curse of new age travellers".

With infinite relief, the prime minister turned to deal with this question, at some length. This gave Edwina Currie the time to get out her "I [picture-of-heart] BASILDON" sticker, which (to Madame Speaker's distress) she held up for the cameras as Basildon's David Amess rose with a helpful enquiry about plummeting mortgage rates in Basildon.

Then Labour's Kim Howells (Pontypridd) called Mark Thatcher a "grease-palmer", a case of courtesy mitigated by dyslexia.

... And normal pantomime service resumed. Dame Jill's mediation flashed in the TV lights as Mr Hood inspected his pink suit for soup stains. Madam Speaker gathered in her gown. Dr Spink (C. Castle Point) polished his big spec in preparation for his "10 minute rule bill" on pornography, and Mrs Mary Whitehouse (or was it Edna Everage?) watched, fascinated, from the special gallery. MPs dreamed, not just of the etas of today, but of the etas of tomorrow, too.

MPs must get Major off the hook — again



Gardiner: "Major's survival is at stake"

the Tory party's Ramsay MacDonald. One can argue whether the Queen would ever agree to a dissolution only six months after an election that returned a government with a decisive majority, and which had not even put its support to the test of a motion of confidence.

But apart from this, it is just not credible that a cabinet party would even allow a prime minister to ask for a dissolution without first seeking the confidence of the House, since this would consign them all to political oblivion for a Parliament or more.

I do not believe that John Major has this death wish, but there is no reason why the rest of the cabinet and party should be partners in a suicide pact. So what should senior backbenchers do in this crisis? We should do what we did in the pits crisis a week ago and find a way of letting John Major off the hook if we are to have a "paving motion" next week approving the principles of Maastricht — and I see no earthly reason why we should — then it should be on a free vote. And I mean a genuine free vote. The Opposition would have to allow a free vote too — and it is possible that this would give John Major the majority he seeks. Alternatively the debate could be on a procedural motion, such as on

the adjournment, which would allow all Tories to demonstrate their desire for John Major to remain in office, but avoid any commitment to Maastricht.

After that, the urgent task must be to heal the wounds inflicted on the Tory party — outside the House, as well as in. That will mean returning to the strategy outlined by John Major on 24 September when he said: "It would not make sense to bring the Maastricht bill back to the House of Commons before we know clearly what the Danish intentions are, and when and how the Danes propose to consult their people again." This would involve no loss of face for John Major at all, and at least allow the Tory party to regroup ready for all the difficult economic challenges that lie ahead. The alternative is to order the whips to twist so many people's arms that a majority for a "paving motion" on Maastricht is secured — just.

Yet the price of that will be a bitterly divided party at Westminster, and a party smitten to its knees outside. Is this what John Major wants? I just cannot believe it. There has to be a better way of party management than this.

GEORGE GARDINER
Sir George Gardiner is
Conservative MP for Reigate

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CORRECTION

Tim Ewart and Nigel Hancock, both formerly of ITN, have joined GMTV and not London News Network, as reported in a media page article on October 13.

679.10.1992

NT chief accuses BBC of inertia

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

THE director of the Royal National Theatre launched a powerful attack on the beleaguered BBC management yesterday, accusing it of encouraging an "inert and supine bureaucracy" which measures success purely by programme ratings instead of quality of output.

Speaking at the Arts Council's first conference on the arts and broadcasting in Brighton, Richard Eyre criticised the corporation for embracing market forces too readily in an attempt "to stay one jump ahead of the government".

"They have espoused producer choice - a policy of chaos and confusion. The consequence of all this loss of nerve in the management is a loss of vision... The BBC crisis is a crisis of faith." A packed auditorium of producers, directors and artists, representing the cream of British arts broadcasting, greeted the speech with prolonged applause.

While Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, opened the conference with an upbeat message asking the delegates to preserve a safe home for the arts on television; Mr Eyre lamented the demise of the public broadcasting ideal and a golden age of British arts broadcasting.

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, contrasted British television with its European counterpart which "has suffered from too much regulation, deregulation and self-abuse".

Surgeon says detective has good chance of recovery after 11½ hr operation

Police officer's hand sewn on after attack

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE policeman who lost a hand after being attacked with a samurai sword has an excellent chance of recovery, according to a surgeon who helped sew the hand back on.

David Gault, consultant plastic surgeon at Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood, north London, who led a team of six surgeons and eight medical staff, working in shifts in an 11½-hr operation, said that it could not have gone better.

The hospital said last night that Sgt Bob Window, from Edmonton police station, was "comfortable". A spokeswoman said: "He may have some soup later this evening. He only had a glass of water so far."

It would be several days before doctors could assess the success of the operation. It is hoped that Sgt Window will be able to return to normal activities such as driving and playing cricket.

Sgt Window's left hand was hacked off after he and two colleagues entered flats in

First the bones were fixed together with metal plates and then the blood vessels were reconnected to restore circulation before the cells of the hand had time to die. Attempts to re-attach limbs after more than about six hours run the risk of allowing dead cells to enter the body, where they can cause damage to organs such as the liver.

The final stage, in the early hours of the morning, was to sew together the outer skin and fix the limb in a half plaster cast, which allows doctors to observe the colour and temperature of the palm.

Mr Gault said: "It is certainly long and time-consuming, but it's not technically very



Surgeon David Gault yesterday: "The operation could not have gone better"

demanding. It's just a question of persevering." It may have been fortunate for Sgt Window that the journey to the hospital was not longer. If so, the improvised ice-pack might have done more harm than good by freezing his severed hand.

Mr Gault advised yesterday that the best method of preservation is a mixture of ice and

water, to keep the limb at freezing point but no colder. To restore the blood supply, two major arteries and five veins had to be reconnected, using needles finer than a human hair and working through a microscope. By 10pm on Monday, five and a half hours after Sgt Window was attacked, the blood vessels had been reconnected and the

severed hand began to regain colour. In general, operations to reconnect hands have a good success rate; the higher up the arm, the less effective they tend to be. Sgt Window suffered serious damage to tendons and nerves. The nerves must be realigned so that natural growth can repair the connection. This may take months or years.

Britons' Costa villas blighted

By EDWARD OWEN
IN MADRID

THE owners of about £4.5 million worth of holiday villas and retirement homes in Spain, most of them Britons, have found that they cannot sell or bequeath the properties because regional authorities on the Costa Blanca have decided to extend a natural park without notification.

All the houses were built legally, some over 100 years ago, but the Denia local authority and the Valencia government, which issued the decree, have announced that they will have first rights to acquire the properties in future, without saying how or when. A recent town development, Los Lagos, approved by Denia's planning department in a non-urban zone, escapes the ruling although in the same area.

The Valencian decree, issued last July, extended the Mongo natural park, a 2,471 ft mountain between the resorts of Denia and Javea, to a strip of land between the previous park limits and a road linking the two towns.

John Mordock, one of 50 residents opposing the decree, said: "I have owned my house for 21 years and it is about 180 years old. I intend to fight this diabolical law. I only found out about it when I put my house on the market."

Bingo killer jailed

A woman addicted to bingo was jailed for five years yesterday for killing her elderly mother with a hammer and stealing her money to feed her gambling obsession.

Margaret Allan, 55, of Grimsby, Humberside, was convicted of manslaughter on the grounds of provocation.

Nottingham Crown Court was told that she hit Hilda Christian, 89, 12 times with the hammer and stole £3,000 from her hidden savings. Allan claimed that her mother had struck her and said harmful things about her dead son.

Michael Bolter, jailed for ten years for a building society robbery in Derby which he claims he did not commit, was yesterday freed on bail by the Court of Appeal, which quashed his conviction. Lord Justice Farquharson said the verdict was unsafe and unsatisfactory. Bolter, 40, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, who has spent 15 months in jail, faces a new trial. In the summer, Nick Moore, another prisoner, went on the run after admitting to the robbery and vowed to stay free until Bolter was freed and cleared.

Conviction quashed

Michael Bolter, jailed for ten years for a building society robbery in Derby which he claims he did not commit, was yesterday freed on bail by the Court of Appeal, which quashed his conviction. Lord Justice Farquharson said the verdict was unsafe and unsatisfactory. Bolter, 40, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, who has spent 15 months in jail, faces a new trial. In the summer, Nick Moore, another prisoner, went on the run after admitting to the robbery and vowed to stay free until Bolter was freed and cleared.

Britons share Iraqi cell

Michael Wainwright, right, the British cyclist jailed in Iraq, is now sharing a cell with Paul Ride, the British catering manager, and two Swedes, his family said yesterday. He has taken up model-making and has asked for a supply of glue and matchsticks. Mr Wainwright's sister Heather Horne, 31, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, said: "He seems to be in good spirits, very chirpy."

Dodgers face spot fines

London Transport is to introduce on-the-spot fines on Underground and bus services to stamp out fare evasion. On the Underground, a £10 "penalty fare" will be introduced in mid-1994 while a £5 fine will be introduced on buses from next spring. The move follows the success of a penalty fares system on Network SouthEast which has saved millions of pounds in lost revenue. London Underground plans to improve its ticket machines so there will be even less excuse for travelling without a ticket.

Stranded sailors rebel

A crew of Russian sailors stranded at Leith docks, near Edinburgh, are threatening to seize their ship today unless a court in Moscow orders the payment of four months wages. The crew of the *Baltija* has been surviving on charity while a legal battle for ownership of the boat remains unresolved. Captain Lev Balakhontsev says that if the Russian Supreme Court delays a decision due today, he will sell the ship.

Bathers shun Blackpool sea

By RONALD FAUX

their head examined. We have just had our best season ever. We have had the stories about the sea for years yet 12 million people still come here every year."

Dorothy Preston, the mayor of Blackpool, defended the resort's natural waters. "I have bathed in that sea since I was eight and I was swimming in it up to three years ago and it never did me any harm. It does seem rather ludicrous to say it is not a bathing beach and at least it is tidal. What goes out moves on, unlike the Mediterranean."

A solution to the problem was on the way. Next season the inshore waters are to be dosed with disinfectant and if North West Water succeeds at a forthcoming public enquiry, the effluent that gives the town a bad name will be purified at a treatment works long before it enters the sea.

EC court case, page 1

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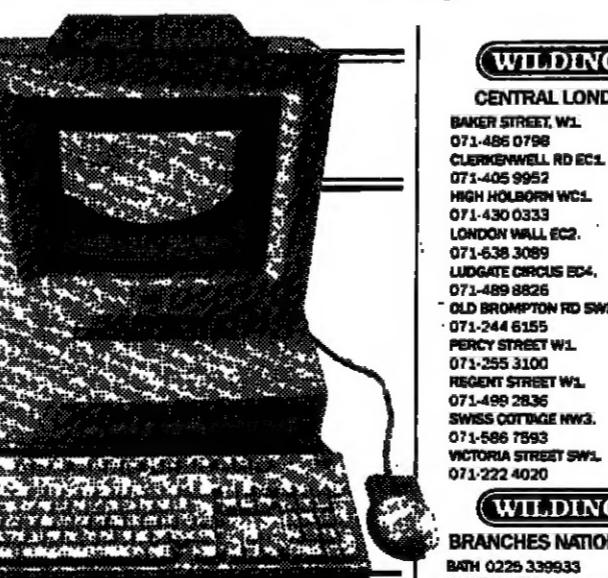
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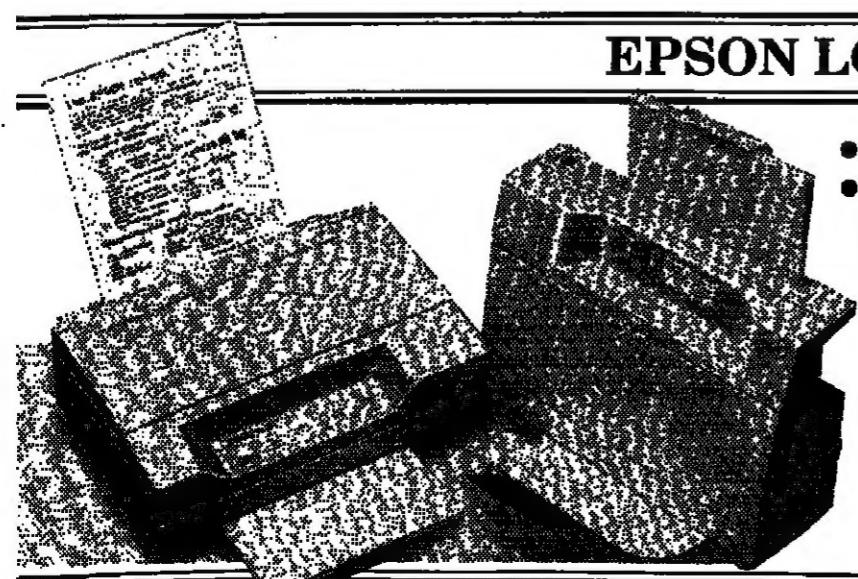
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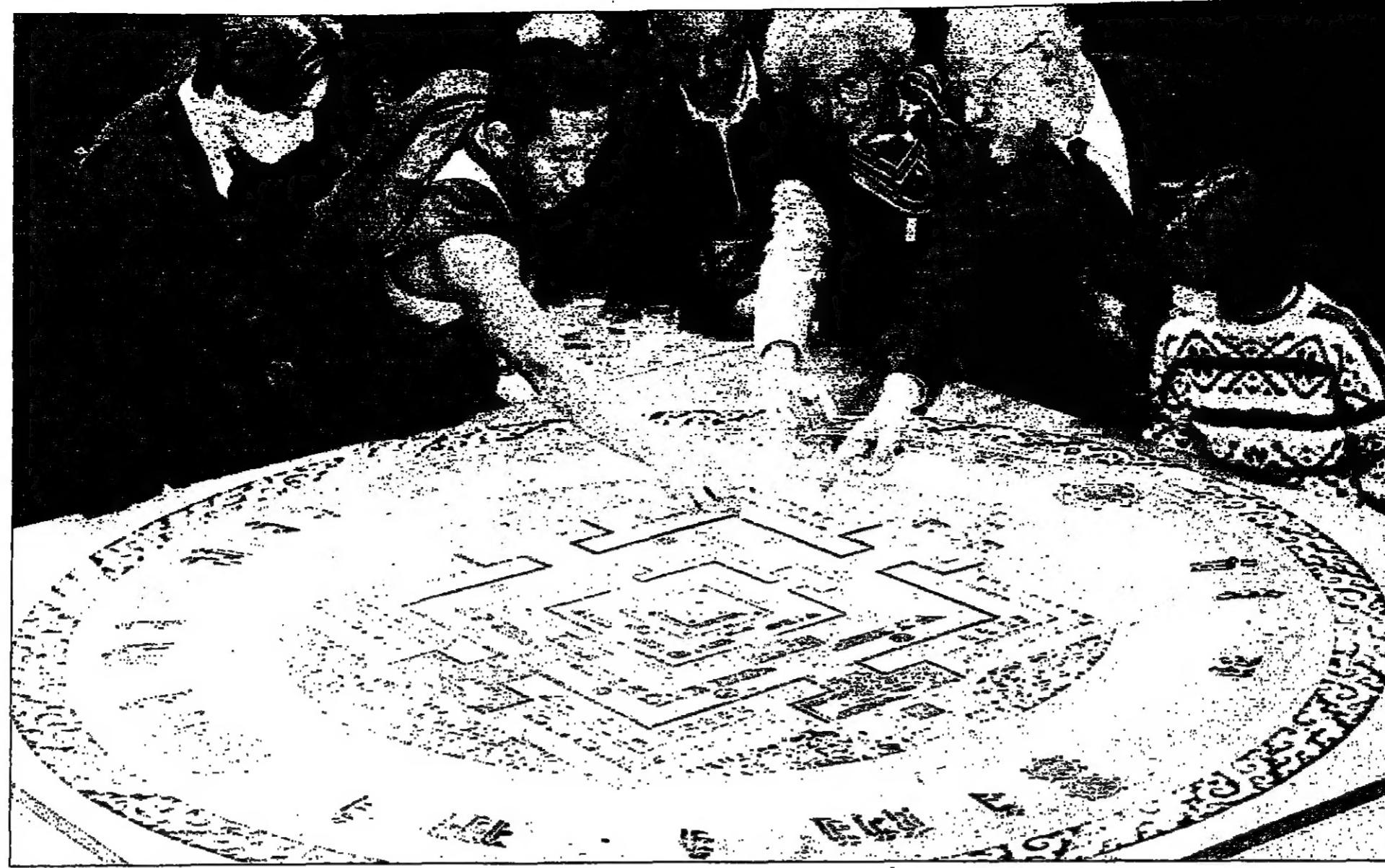
Blessings numerous as the sand

Fingers in the sand: Venerable Thinlay, right, a Buddhist monk from Tibet, points out some of the 722 deities on the Sand Kalachakra Mandala, which he helped create (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes)

The mandala is made from coloured sand from ground precious stones and is on display in The Sacred Art of Tibet exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, in London. Buddhists believe that the completed sand mandala embodies a vast store of spiritual energy, as each grain of sand is charged with the blessings of a ritual. The art of creating sand mandalas has been passed on from teacher to student since the sixth century.

Each mandala is seen by Buddhists as a sacred mansion with a particular deity residing at the centre. This mandala is devoted to peace and physical balance. Buddhists say that the mandala is an expression of the Buddha's fully enlightened mind. The Dalai Lama says that a person who sees the Kalachakra mandala will feel the world's tensions and violence transformed into beneficial wisdom and intuition.

The exhibition, sponsored by *The Times*, runs until December 13.



Defence ministry considers arming against Third World missile risk

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT defence researchers are about to study the cost effectiveness of buying or developing a limited anti-ballistic missile system to counter threats from potentially hostile Third World countries within 3,000 kilometres (1,874 miles) of Britain.

A decision on whether to deploy a weapon system against medium-range ballistic missiles is expected in two or three years, defence ministry sources said yesterday. Since such a programme could cost several billion pounds, it would have implications for the whole defence procurement budget.

Theoretical studies were carried out by the ministry following President Reagan's "Star Wars" speech, in 1983, in which he called on American scientists to produce a system that would create a space- and ground-based, anti-ballistic missile (ABM) shield against nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. However, there was no political support for a British ABM system.

Ministry officials said that there was now growing awareness that, with the proliferation of Third World countries acquiring or developing ballistic missiles, potentially with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads, the threat might have to be countered with a limited ABM system. Libya, for example, is about 3,000 kilometres from northern Scotland, within firing range for such a system as the Chinese-made CSS2 missile.

An anti-ballistic missile system would also defend against

■ The Cold war may be over, but threats of a mishap in Russia or aggression from a Third World nation are prompting a re-think of British defence policy that could involve upgrading the country's existing weaponry

accidental launch of missiles from former Soviet republics.

Russian scientists have expressed concern over early-warning radar false alarms.

A British official said: "This issue has now moved to the front burner. However, just

because a country acquires the capability, it doesn't necessarily mean we have to counter it. We have to weigh up the threat it might pose to Britain and the cost effectiveness of having a system."

British systems likely to be

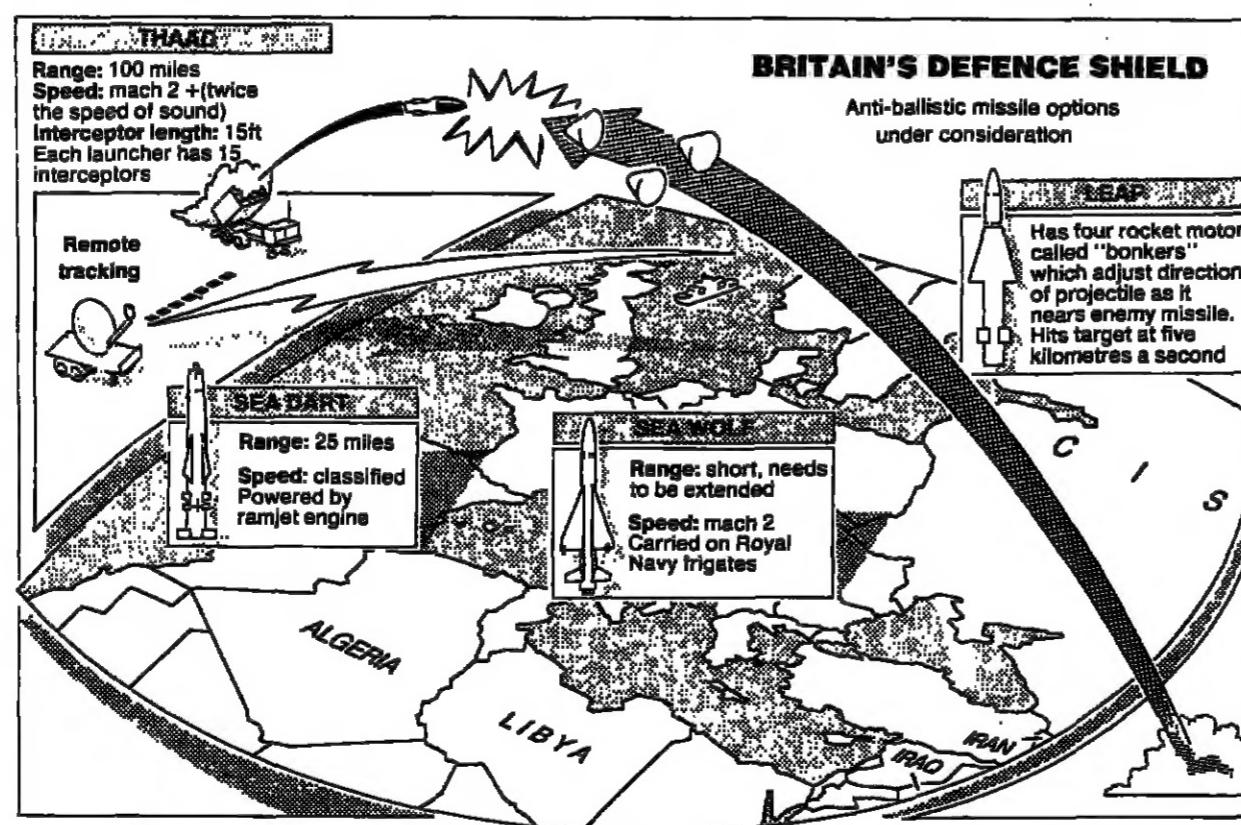
studied include a stretched version of the Royal Navy's Sea Wolf vertical-launch anti-missile weapon, whose range would have to be extended to reach altitudes of at least 100 kilometres (62.5 miles), and the Sea Dart anti-aircraft

missile, which has a range of about 25 miles.

These missiles could be modified for use as rockets to launch a small US-developed guided projectile, which, with the help of on-board computers, would steer itself into the path of a ballistic missile.

The American concept, part of the SDI programme, is called LEAP, light exoatmospheric projectile, under development by Hughes.

The other alternative would be to buy a complete weapon system from the US.



Tongue-tied UK snubs visitors

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE British insistence on speaking only English is keeping foreign tourists away, according to the British Tourist Authority.

Foreign visitors are increasingly disconcerted to tolerate linguistic disarray from monoglot shopkeepers, transport officials and traders, William Davis, the authority's chairman, said.

Mr Davis was speaking in London as he presented awards to the few companies and organisations that have taken foreign languages seriously.

"International competition for tourists is intensifying throughout the world and a Britain that is lost for words is in danger of losing a great deal of future business," he said. "English is not the native language and few offer additional reward to multi-lingual staff, the survey showed."

Staff for foreign language skills and few offered additional reward to multi-lingual staff, the survey showed.

The winners of the "Winning Words" awards included British Midland Airways, train staff in French, German and Dutch; Lancashire County Council for producing brochures in seven languages and employing interpreters and translators; and Inverary jail in Argyll, Strathclyde, a tourist attraction with leaflets and guide books in four languages.

The authority called for more effort to learn Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese and eastern European languages to help non-English speaking visitors from those countries.

Few sought out potential

Race monitor urged for school exams

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS should introduce racial monitoring of examination results, pupils' choice of subjects and streaming to ensure children are treated fairly and to tackle poor results by blacks and Asians, the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday.

Teachers should check admissions, exclusions and suspensions to ensure that their policies do not disadvantage pupils from the ethnic minorities, according to a report published by the commission.

Its study of a comprehensive school in northern England found that Asian pupils were placed in English and mathematics sets below their ability and needed to score higher marks than white pupils to be placed in the top sets for English.

According to the study, *Set to Fail?*, the school had difficulty identifying pupils needing special support because English was their second language and had failed to draw a distinction between learning difficulties and language problems.

The proposals extend the existing policy, which requires local education authorities and grant-maintained schools to collect information on the ethnic origin of pupils entering school at five and 11. The northern school, which was not named in the report,

had 1,117 pupils of whom 41 per cent were Asian. None of the 70 teachers was from an ethnic minority and at the time the report was being prepared none of the governors was black or Asian.

The study found that in their first year Asian pupils were more likely than white pupils to be placed in English and mathematics sets below their ability levels as assessed at primary school. To be placed in top sets for English, Asian pupils appeared to need higher marks than white pupils in the school's post-entry English test. It also found that Asian pupils were less likely than white pupils to take GCSE optional subjects and more likely to do the non-GCSE vocational course.

The report said that any substantial under- or over-representation of an ethnic group in any subject must be questioned and explained, along with the ethnic composition of sets, streams or bands.

The proposals extend the existing policy, which requires local education authorities and grant-maintained schools to collect information on the ethnic origin of pupils entering school at five and 11. The northern school, which was not named in the report,

First-time buyers bid against developers at property auctions

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THEY were out in force: sharp-suited and sporting mobile phones, bidding furiously at auction yesterday for property like it had never gone out of fashion. It might have been a flashback to the 1980s. "You can't afford not to buy," said one. "Prices can only go up

from here," said another.

Yet these were not developers, but first-time buyers, the traditional innocents of the housing market struggling to get their first foot on the housing market ladder. One developer estimated that 75 per cent of the bidders assembled at the Inter-Continental Hotel, in Park Lane, London, were non-professionals. In the past, auction habitués would have been developers, small builders, and large house-builders who would always be reliant upon her parents.

She was aware only of light and dark and had difficulty understanding sounds. Hammersmith and Fulham Health Authority denied negligence at Gown's birth at West London Hospital in July 1980.

Police review murder case

Kent police have sent a report to the Home Office after being ordered to look again at a murder case 12 years ago.

Peter Luckhurst was jailed for life for the murder of Gwendoline Marshall, 79, who died in Pluckley when a pitchfork was stuck in her neck.

Police were ordered to review the case after a campaign by villagers, a solicitor and a private detective. The report's conclusions are not yet known.

Body concealed

John Grindrod, 87, lay dead in his home in Fallowfield, Greater Manchester, for more than six months while Florence Rimner, 58, continued to draw his pension, an inquest was told. She is due in court accused of deception and concealing a body.

Charity sale



Earrings worn by Julie Goodwin, above, who plays Bet Lynch in *Coronation Street*, will be among the items donated for a charity auction for a body scanner at Cheltenham hospital on November 13. Signed photographs of John Major and Baroness Thatcher will also be on sale.

Teenager held

Four people, including a girl aged 12, were arrested after a fight with police in Lympstone, Hampshire, on Monday night. Four police were hurt in the fight, which began when they tried to arrest a teenager for a public order offence.

Cones stolen

Thieves who stole traffic cones from a contrafraud system in Swindon, Wiltshire, were blamed by police for causing a lorry to crash into scaffolding. The driver was unhurt.

Blind charge

William Plessey, a blind man aged 63, of Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, is to be sent for trial at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, accused of indecently assaulting three women.

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Muslim pupil sent home over beard

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MUSLIM schoolboy is demanding an apology from his headmaster and compensation after being banned from lessons for several weeks for refusing to shave off his beard.

Syed Dohan, 15, was sent home from his comprehensive school after he objected to the headmaster's demand that he remove the beard, which the boy says is part of his religious and cultural tradition.

His dispute with the headmaster of George Green school in the Isle of Dogs, east London, caused protests from the local Bengali population and the local education authority chairman has rebuked

the school's governors and headmaster.

Jonathan Stokes, chairman of Tower Hamlets education committee, said that he was exasperated at the escalation of the disagreement and that the attitude of the governors suggested a lack of cultural awareness.

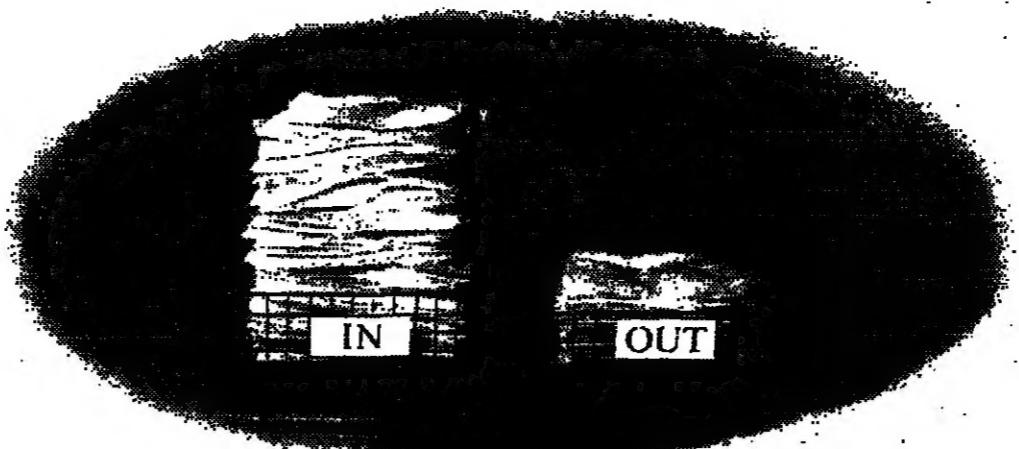
Syed, studying for nine GCSEs, was sent home last term. After discussions during the summer holidays he was allowed back into the school but had to remain apart from other pupils in a detention room. He claims he was allowed to leave the room only at lunchtime and lacked supervision.

Syed, who was born in Bangladesh, said yesterday: "I was kept in detention on my own for one and a half months and have only just started going to normal classes."

He had never shaved his beard because he was following the traditions of Muhammad but he did wear the school uniform of navy blue trousers, white shirt, school tie, navy blue sweater and black shoes.

By allowing Syed to return to normal classes, the school has set a precedent that will probably lead to a change in its rules.





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See in 3D

Leaked documents reveal plan to tax invalidity benefits

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY a million social security claimants will lose out under plans to tax benefits now being considered by ministers, which would save up to £50 million, a year according to a Treasury document leaked to the Labour party.

The plans to tax invalidity benefit were disclosed as it emerged that the full cabinet will discuss options for public spending cuts for the first time on Thursday in an attempt to meet the £24.5 billion ceiling before the Autumn Statement on November 12.

Ministers will consider an interim report from the EDX spending committee and debate which options are politically feasible, but no decisions are expected to be taken until the next cabinet meeting on November 5.

It was also confirmed in a separate paper that Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, is drawing up measures to curb spending on invalidity benefit, as part of the present spending negotiations. These proposals, set out in a draft letter from Mr Lilley to Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury — also leaked to Labour — include reviewing the upper age limit for invalidity benefit and "seeking to reduce the levels of average payment".

Mr Lilley is considering closing the loophole which

■ Ministers are debating the question of taxing social security claimants in an attempt to save £50 million a year

allows people who claim before pensionable age to continue receiving invalidity benefit, now £54.15 a week, for a further five years after the state retirement ages of 60 or 65. Income related allowances paid on top of basic invalidity benefit may also be reviewed.

Although invalidity benefit is statutorily uprated in line with inflation, social security officials were suggesting yesterday that some changes could be made to the benefit through regulations without introducing new legislation.

The Treasury document, dated September 24, reveals the Treasury's longer term intention to tax invalidity benefit paid to 1.4 million people who are unable to work due to long-term illness. It suggests that the benefit which now costs the government £5 billion could be brought into the PAYE system from 1994 and taxed at source. Treasury and social security officials were pointing out yesterday that taxing invalidity benefit had been a long-standing policy since the early 1980s.

The Treasury document, which hints at a more far-reaching integration of benefit and tax, to bring all benefits into PAYE, concludes

that the changes could be introduced either through a "big bang approach", taxing everyone in full from day one, or on a "sliding scale", by taxing an increasing percentage of the benefit over a number of years.

Full taxation would yield £50 million in 1994-5, rising to £700 million in 1997-8. The other options would raise between £50 million and £200 million in the first year, rising to between £300 million and £700 million in 1997-8.

The potential yield from taxation in 1994-5 is about £50 million at current tax and benefit rates and about 900,000 people would suffer a reduction in their net income, including over 250,000 who would lose more than £16 a week," the document says. About 55,000 of those whose sole income is invalidity benefit would have to pay more than £100 in a tax year. It points out that if taxation is to start in 1994, decisions have to be made by next month.

In a parliamentary answer yesterday Mr Dorrell said that about 650,000 people would have an income tax liability, of whom about 70,000 would have invalidity benefit as their sole source of taxable income.

Mr Lilley's letter which was sent to Mr Dorrell at the beginning of October, points out that taxation cannot be introduced before 1994 and if he puts his own measures into action, the tax revenues will be reduced. He suggests that the taxation plan should be considered alongside his review of invalidity benefit.

Donald Dewar, the shadow social security secretary, said the proposals were not an attack on poverty, but the poor. "The tax proposal is part of a Treasury raid — part of the price to be paid for Mr Lamont's economic mismanagement. Those who are sick and unable to work are to be brought into the tax system by a government which claims to take the lowest income groups out of tax."

Responding in the Commons yesterday to Angela Knight, Tory MP for Erewash, who said that not even French farmers would benefit from a trade war, Mr Major said: "The reality is that everybody would lose out from a trade war, including France and everybody who lives in France."

In the past few days, he said, he had been in touch with the Americans and the EC and urged an early resumption of the talks, both on Gatt and on ending the oilseed dispute. "I am glad to say that the two sides are in touch again and the United States is holding back from retaliation," the prime minister said.

Under attack at question time from Labour MPs over

the truth had to be told. He urged MPs to press for a public enquiry, and said that his breakaway union was preparing to take Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, to court over the plan to close 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 miners' jobs. Just 12 MPs — mostly Conservatives — turned up for a meeting with Mr Lyne and miners from Colgrave and Silverhill collieries in Nottinghamshire, which are both due to close.

Major holds out hope of end to Gatt dispute

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

AN agreement in the world trade talks would mean an extra £120 billion worth of world output, the prime minister said yesterday. Failure would mean that everyone would lose from a trade war.

Mr Major held out some hope of a successful conclusion to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) talks.

The Uruguay round of talks, which started in Montevideo six years ago, have become bogged down in a dispute between the EC and on ending the oilseed dispute. "In the past few days, he said, he had been in touch with the Americans and the EC and urged an early resumption of the talks, both on Gatt and on ending the oilseed dispute." He cheered his supporters when he added: "Manufacturing output has risen in each of the first two quarters, car production was up sharply in September, and retail sales have been up in both the second and third quarters."

The Labour leader accused the prime minister of complacency that would "shock the public". People were "sick and tired" of failed economic policies and bogus promises of recovery that were never fulfilled, he said.

Mr Major pointed out that for three years Mr Smith's economic policy had been the same as the government's except he had always wanted lower interest rates. Now Britain had the lowest interest rates in the EC while the Opposition had no economic policy whatsoever. "Each 1 per cent off interest rates is worth £1 billion a year to industry and that is vital for investment, future prosperity and jobs."



Travellers to face new curbs

Legislation is likely to be introduced soon to curb the activities of New Age travellers. At question time yesterday John Major told MPs: "We are examining the particular difficulties created by New Age travellers, and I hope that at the end of that examination we will be able to produce legislation that protects those who suffer from their activities."

Cyprus cut

Britain is to withdraw 200 of its UN peacekeeping personnel from Cyprus by the end of the year, MPs were told. In a Commons written reply, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said the British contribution would be cut by 25 per cent. Other countries were cutting their forces, he said.

EFA plea

Germany was urged to stay in the £22 billion European Fighter Aircraft project in the wake of a study which claims that costs can be cut by up to 30 per cent. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said the reductions brought the aircraft within the price range demanded by Germany.

Currie rebuke

Edwina Currie, the Tory MP for South Derbyshire, incurred the wrath of the Speaker when, during prime minister's questions, she waved a banner saying "I love Basildon". The incident happened as David Amess, Tory MP for the Essex town, rose to voice support for the prime minister's economic policy.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Debates on public accounts committee reports. Lords (2.30): Debate on care in the community.

Heseltine rejected 'unfair' subsidy for coal industry

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine considered paying a further subsidy to Britain's coal industry to avoid announcing the closure of 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs, the president of the board of trade disclosed last night.

Facing a tough questioning session by the all-party Commons trade and industry select committee, Mr Heseltine said he had examined various alternatives to the pit closures, including a levy and the potential for finding new markets, possibly abroad, for British coal.

Mr Heseltine also told MPs of his frustration that present laws prevented him ordering all the key players in the electricity industry into a room for negotiations on future contracts for coal. "If I had had the power to negotiate with the electricity industry collectively, I might have been able to make more progress," he said.

Mr Heseltine and Tim Eggar, the energy minister, had both felt constrained by legal arrangements, he said. But he later admitted that, even if he had managed to call

all industry heads together, he might not have won better coal contracts to save the industry.

In the opening session of the cross-party enquiry into the energy industry, Mr Heseltine said he eventually ruled out the option of a subsidy for coal because it would be unfair to the rest of British industry, for which he had responsibility. "I was not in the end persuaded that was a good way to go," he said.

In more than four hours of questioning, Mr Heseltine disclosed that, if he could find a larger market for coal, he was prepared to recommend a change in the law.

As he came under pressure from MPs of the three main parties to reconsider the fate of the first ten pits scheduled for closure, he said that he had asked for assurances from British Coal that coalmining could be resumed if a decision was taken to keep the pits open.

The committee chairman Richard Caborn, Labour MP for Sheffield Central, said he and others had received complaints that the pits would not

be capable of re-opening even if, after the 90-day period for consultation, they were given a reprieve.

Mr Heseltine said that he intended to publish extracts of letters between himself and British Coal on the prospects of the pits being reactivated.

However, that was not to say that the pits would be in exactly the same position as now, he added. He also came under fierce criticism for leaving miners in the ten pits on full pay instead of allowing them to continue working.

The Tory MP Michael Clark, chairman of the former energy committee, said that Britain was paying a bonus to the French electricity industry for supplies from its nuclear power stations. "The deal was done to meet French objections to Britain's nuclear subsidy."

Mr Heseltine said the price paid for French supplies was a ransom for the regional electricity companies.

He was also pessimistic about the prospects of miners or others taking over the doomed pits because, he insisted, they would merely endanger other pits. "By encouraging pits under threat to continue in operation, unless the market increases, you are just closing down another pit."

Although private pits might find other markets, he said that on the best information available to him, the market was for 40 million tonnes a year.

Housing package unveiled

By PETER RIDDELL
POLITICAL EDITOR

EMERGENCY action to revive the housing market by helping homeowners who are in financial difficulties was urged yesterday by Labour.

The measures are part of the national recovery programme the Labour party is developing. The package consists of:

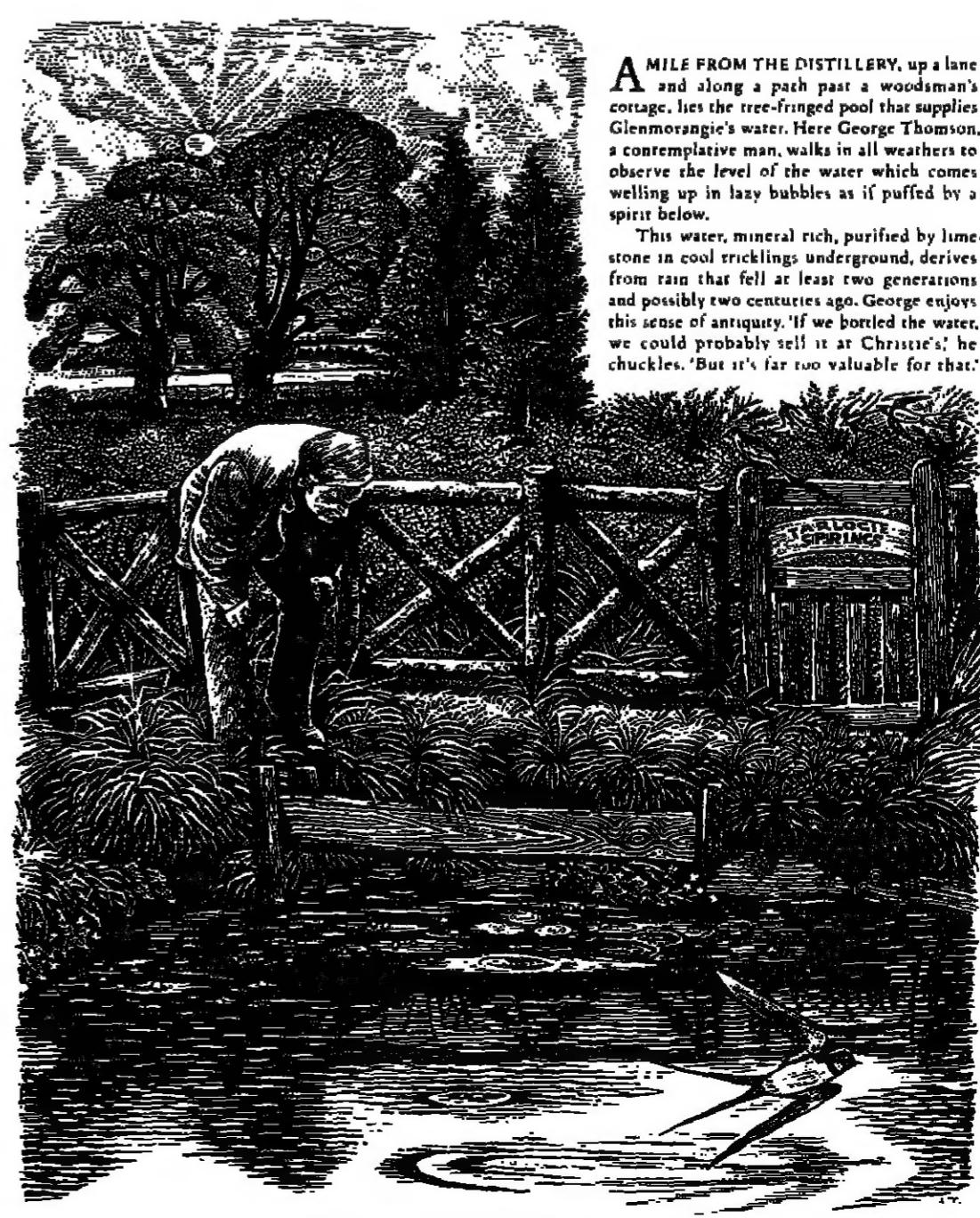
- Encouraging mortgage lenders and landlords to lease empty, repossessed homes to local authorities and housing associations to house homeless families.
- Ensuring that lenders offer advice and assistance to owners in difficulties and to make mortgage rescue, whether through shared ownership or conversion to tenancy, available.
- Making mortgage rescue schemes work by ensuring that owners in difficulties can be helped to stay on as tenants if the government backed the sale of these homes to mutual housing associations by giving the associations the start-up capital they need.

- To give owners with a substantial amount of equity tied up in their home the right to become shared owners. They would pay a lower mortgage in return for giving the lender an equity share.

Gradually relaxing constraints on the use of capital receipts worth £5 billion to enable local authorities to build homes and to buy empty properties for rent.

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Not so much Sex please

A TORY back-bencher yesterday cited Madonna's book, *Sex*, as a reason for tidying up the muddled obscenity laws (Arthur Leathley writes). Dr Robert Spink (Castle Point) condemned the "patchwork quilt" of legal provisions which could not prevent the book being sold.

Dr Spink called for the Obscene Publications Act to be amended in the light of what he said was unpre-

dicted concern over pornography. He described Madonna as "a confused and perverted woman".

His paving bill presented to the Commons yesterday, called on the government to introduce its own legislation to amend the 1959 act. The Home Office indicated that the government would not support the bill as it would not be possible to introduce workable legislation.



"Now that Sam's got himself a Thomas Pink shirt, we'll have to find him a place on the team."

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Perot attacked on all sides for claims of smear tactics

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

ROSS Perot's independent challenge for the White House appeared to have struck the rocks yesterday with the billionaire coming under attack from all sides for his bizarre allegations of Republican dirty tricks. Aides of Bill Clinton, clearly relieved by the turn of events, predicted that the Texan billionaire's late surge in the election would now peter out, leaving the Democrat comfortably ahead of President Bush.

Opinion polls conducted over the weekend and published yesterday appeared to indicate that the momentum Mr Perot enjoyed after his forceful performances in the presidential debates was beginning to slow even before

lic campaign had bugged his offices in the summer and planned to disrupt his daughter's wedding, the Democrats called a halt to their attacks on Mr Perot. "You don't interrupt your opponent when he is making a fool of himself," Paul Begala, a Clinton strategist, said. Mr Bush, however, campaigning in Iowa, was quick to criticise the Texan's "crazy" charges.

The American press was uniformly critical of Mr Perot yesterday and savaged the billionaire for his unsubstantiated charges. "God knows what inner self-destructive compulsion was at work," wrote one *New York Times* columnist. *The Washington Times* headlined its front-page coverage of Mr Perot's claims, "Crazy Man or Victim?" Several newspapers said his allegations would revive voter fears that Mr Perot lives in a world of conspiracy theories.

The Perot camp failed again yesterday to come up with any evidence for the allegations, which included the claim that senior Republicans had doctored a photograph to depict one of his daughters as a lesbian. Mr Perot says he now accepts Republican denials of a dirty trick campaign.

Most of Mr Perot's claims were based on information he had received from a former California policeman, Scott Barnes, a self-described private investigator. Several newspapers wrote extensively yesterday about Mr Barnes's past and pointed out that he was once convicted for illegal tapping and that he is notorious for trying to sell false information to the press.

The Bush camp, although determined to protect itself from Mr Perot's charges, is disappointed at the billionaire's self-inflicted wound. Its strategy for the last week of the campaign was built around the idea that Mr Perot would continue to make inroads into Mr Clinton's support.

The dispute over the Perot allegations has also dominated the news, overshadowing Mr Bush's feisty attacks on Mr Clinton.

Pollsters and political analysts forecast yesterday that Mr Perot's support will fall off rapidly as voters digest his attack on the Republicans. "The more exposure people have to his personality, unrehearsed and unscripted, the more it will hurt him," said James Thurber, a political scientist at Washington's American University.

As the Perot camp and the Republicans continued to trade charges yesterday over the Texan's allegations that senior members of the Repub-

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Private pause: Bill Clinton steps out of the limelight for a quiet moment with his wife, Hillary, before going on stage to address a campaign rally in Wilson, North Carolina.



US ELECTION

the unpredictable businessman unleashed his extraordinary dirty trick claims on Monday. A Gallup poll in *USA Today* yesterday indicated that Mr Clinton's lead over Mr Bush has increased from 8 per cent to 11 per cent. The survey gave Mr Clinton 42 per cent, Mr Bush 31 per cent and Mr Perot 19 per cent.

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'Dirty tricks' by opponent bring former American space hero down to earth

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

JOHN GLENN, the first American to orbit Earth, last hero of that innocent age before the Kennedy assassinations, Vietnam and Watergate, exploded during a Monday night debate with the Republican whipper-snapper challenging for his Senate seat.

On live television he accused Mike DeWine of running "one of the dirtiest, filthiest campaigns I have ever seen." It had been a "drumbeat of lies and lies and lies," he said. "If you were Pinocchio your nose would be down to the ground."

Unruffled, the short-lipped Republican retorted that Mr

Glenn was not the same person that an awestruck nation had seen blasted into space in 1962, and not the man whom Ohio had first sent to Washington 18 years ago. Turning to the senator, 71, he coolly told him: "You've been there too long."

In a sense Mr DeWine was right. Mr Glenn, who now appears in history books and has streets and schools named after him, does belong to a more genteel era. In this campaign he has for the first time encountered the real ugliness of American politics and confesses to bewilderment. Mr DeWine is a human chihuahua who has directly assaulted the character of the man *The Right Stuff* as "serious about God, country, home and hearth".

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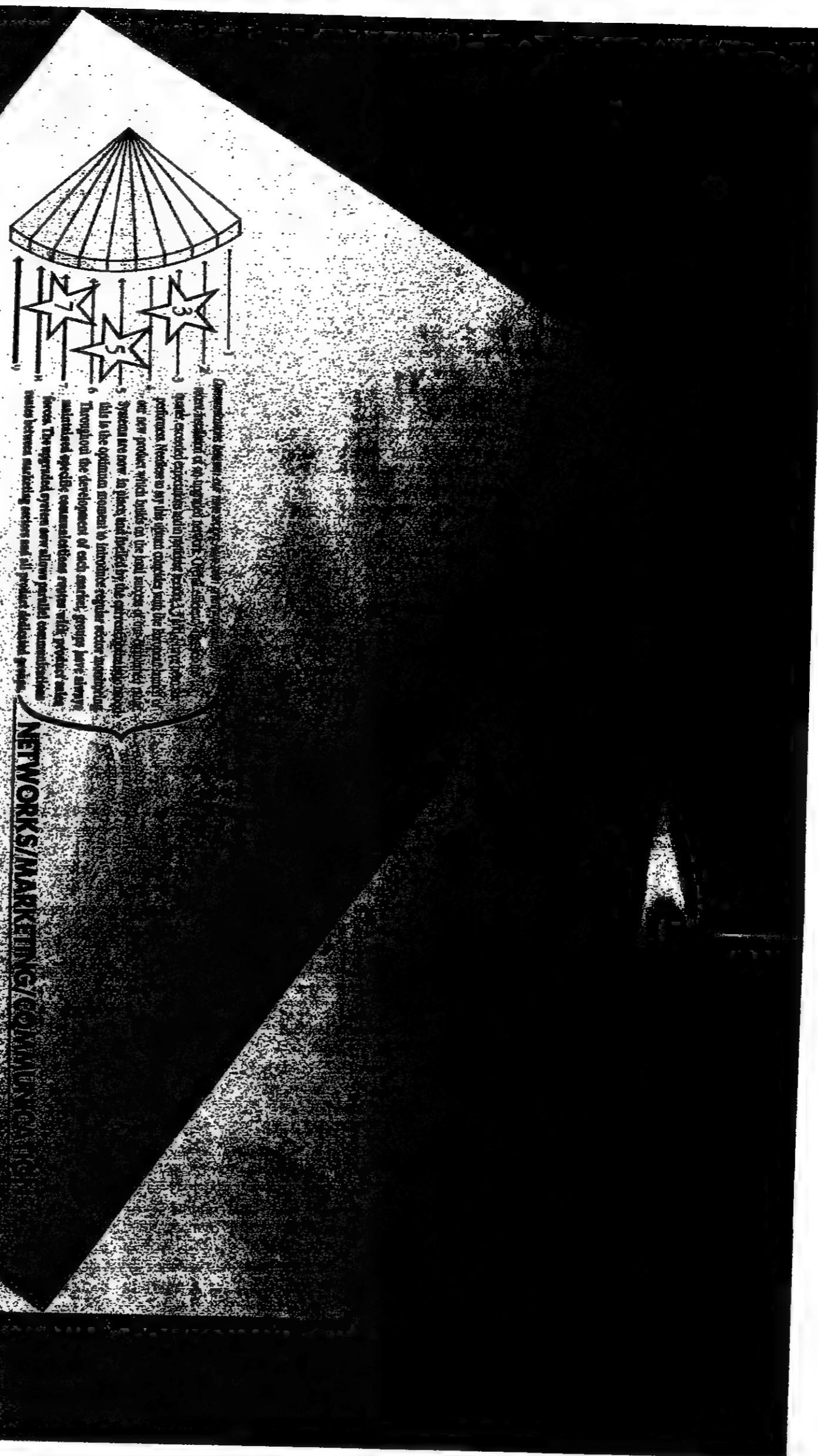
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J.P. LIOU

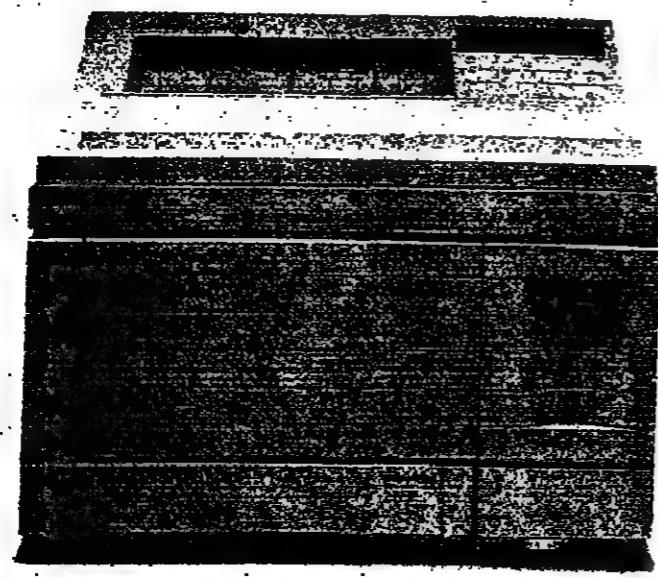
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Baltic states reel as old guard takes back power in Lithuania



FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN VILNIUS

THIS victory of the former Communists in Lithuania's elections has caused shockwaves throughout the independent Baltic states. In the capital Vilnius there are fears of a possible coup by right-wing paramilitary forces. This is one reason why Algis Brazauskas, despite the probability of a clear parliamentary majority for his Labour party, is being so careful to emphasize his desire for a broad coalition government.

The right wing in parliament will also be stronger than has generally been reported. While the Sajudis party of Vytautas Landsbergis won only 19 per cent of the proportional list vote, its close allies, the Christian Demo-

Fears of a right-wing coup abound.
Algis Brazauskas, the election victor, will have to walk a political tightrope

crats, took another 12 per cent. The Labour victory was achieved largely at the expense of the smaller centrist parties. Their demolition is now one of Mr Brazauskas' biggest problems, since it leaves him with almost nobody with whom to make a coalition. The new government is also bound to suffer strong parliamentary harassment from the right-wing opposition.

Paramilitary leaders, assiduously encouraged by Sajudis propaganda over the past two years, believe that Mr Brazauskas and his party are identical to the old Soviet Communist party and are part of a plot to take Lithuania into a Russian empire. As a Sajudis worker declared after the results: "In 1940, Moscow an-

nexed us with the help of tanks. This time, they didn't even need to do that."

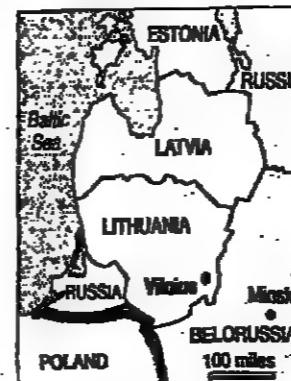
At a conference of radical nationalist forces last year, a commander of Saulai paramilitary volunteers said: "If Brazauskas were ever elected by the people, we would not stop him forming the government. But we would have to watch him very carefully, and if we saw that he was betraying Lithuania, we would have to act to save the nation."

As well as the unofficial Saulai, Lithuania possesses an official home guard, both of them recruited overwhelming-

ly from right-wing volunteers. The neo-fascist Young Lithuania movement also gives its members military training. The parliamentary guard, in effect a personal bodyguard of Dr Landsbergis and fanatically loyal to him, is recruited from the ultra-nationalist martial arts clubs. Its commander, Arturas Skucas,

has equipped his men with Uzi sub-machineguns and American rocket launchers, so that they are far better armed than the embryonic Lithuania army.

The Sajudis-dominated parliament gave these guards the



In Estonia, the home guard has split, with a small ultra-nationalist breakaway faction swearing allegiance to the 1938 constitution and a "government in exile". However, this move was partly a reaction against the domination of the defence ministry by former Soviet figures. Under the new right-wing Estonian government, it is hoped that discipline will rapidly be restored.

In Latvia, the home guard volunteers are playing a major role in police work. The national governments do not trust the old Russian-dominated Soviet police and, with their morale shattered, these have proved largely impotent in the face of the soaring crime rate.

The Latvian home guards are recruited largely from the ethnic Latvian countryside, and many Latvian farmers see them as their only protection against urban gangs who raid isolated farmhouses, extorting money and sometimes stealing large quantities of food. Home guard sources describe the local police as frequently in league with the gangs.

■ Kiev: Ukraine's parliament yesterday voted in a new government charged with resurrecting the country's shrinking economic base, coping with an appalling streak of corruption, and stemming an inflation rate running at about 40% per month. writes Robert Seely.

Many of the ministries have similar old guard faces; several key appointments have been given for the first time to candidates from democratic groups. In all, 11 new ministers were named.

Yeltsin issues decree to outlaw coalition plotting his downfall

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday moved to ban the opposition National Salvation Front, a coalition of left and right-wing activists who have vowed to remove him from power, and spoke of the "terrible danger" Russia faces from forces hostile to reform.

Mr Yeltsin told a meeting of the foreign ministry's presidium that the organisation was unconstitutional because it aimed to overthrow the capitalist system in Russia. Later he announced on television that a decree preventing the organisation's assemblies and activities would come into force immediately.

The front, a heterogeneous gathering of Russian nationalists, former communists and hardline military men, held its founding congress at the weekend and is preparing to challenge the Yeltsin administration at the Congress of People's Deputies in December in what observers fear may become a "creeping coup".

The ban is the first attempt to outlaw a political organisa-

tion in Russia since Mr Yeltsin proscribed the Communist Party after the failed coup last year. It is of dubious legality and may well lead to another protracted case in the constitutional court, similar to the one being held on the fate of the communists. But the nervous Russian leader is clearly prepared to risk future dangerous complications to diffuse the threat to his power that has grown more concerted during the past fortnight.

"Mr Yeltsin is fighting for his survival with all the force and fury we have come to expect of him," one Western diplomat said yesterday. "He thinks there is a process in motion which could lead to a swift even brutal end to reforms and he may well be right."

The Russian leader anticipated foreign criticism of the move, calling on diplomats to explain to governments abroad the threat he believes the front presents to reform. "There is a terrible danger, but in the West they do not

understand this yet," he said.

The front, in confident mood after the recent decline in the popularity of radical reforms, has a leadership of 1,400 that includes conservative deputies such as Sergei Baburin, former communists such as Victor Alksnis, a once-prominent member of the anti-perestroika Soyuz faction, army officers who supported the coup, and several Slavophile nationalists who make no secret of their sympathies for fascism. Most of the group's representatives talk of acting constitutionally to secure their aims, but several speakers at the weekend suggested they would be prepared to use force to gain power.

Colonel Stanislav Terekhov, head of the militant Officers' Union, spoke of a three-phase plan of political activity and mass protests, adding to the cheers of the other delegates:

"There is a third phase. But I will not talk about that here. Preparations are being made none the less."

Other supporters wore black uniforms, berets and jackboots at Saturday's meeting. Statements such as Colonel Terekhov's give Mr Yeltsin justification for banning the organisation. In terms of his reputation in the West, which has already suffered this month from his tireless crusade of vengeance against Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, it is likely to raise some eyebrows.

However, unappealing as banning political enemies sounds to Western sensibilities, his action is indefensible. In Russia's poorly developed democracy, there is no such thing as a loyal opposition.

It is another question altogether whether his step will be effective. Ilya Konstantinov, one of the front's leaders, responded to the ban by saying: "This is a sign that Yeltsin is afraid of us."

Faced with an increasingly hostile parliament, a rouble that plunged yet again to a new low yesterday and the threat of hyper-inflation this winter, Mr Yeltsin is vulnerable to attack.

Russia's parliamentary police surrounded the building of the liberal *Izvestia* newspaper yesterday in a move to implement the parliament's decision to take over the publication in defiance of Mr Yeltsin. He had tried to protect *Izvestia*, a supporter of his radical reform policies.

As the economists spoke in Bonn, there were continued grumblings among CDU members attending the party congress in Düsseldorf over Herr Kohl's announcement that he intends to raise taxes in 1995, or possibly earlier.

Theo Weigel, the finance minister and chairman of the Christian Social Union, the CDU's Bavarian allies, jumped at the opportunity to voice once more his objections to the tax plan, saying that the economic report confirmed his views. The criticism came as a sharp blow to Herr Kohl.

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'Fin de régime' malaise grips France

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

Anyone making a film of France's fall from favour of France's governing Socialist party, need not look far for dramatic images in this pre-election season. The would-be film-maker could start with the Paris court where Odile Miroir, 25, is on trial with three railway workers for the manslaughter of 56 people in a train disaster in the Gare de Lyon in 1988.

For reasons deemed frivolous, Mme Miroir, a passenger, pulled the emergency cord, setting off a chain of mishaps that resulted in a collision at the terminus. The apparent injustice of her prosecution, and the absence of railway executives from the dock, is being cast as another symptom of the failure of France's government to take responsibility for mismanagement.

More focused charges are being levelled at President Mitterrand and his 11-year-old administration after last Friday's jail sentences against

senior health administrators, including the top civil servant in the health ministry, for allowing the distribution of HIV-contaminated blood, a scandal for which no politicians have been called to account.

All this is adding to a feeling that France is heading for institutional crisis. At the core of the anxiety is the looming clash between a president determined to cling to office and the opposition majority, which is almost certain to be voted into power in parliamentary elections in March.

The two main opposition groupings in effect launched their campaigns this week, bringing a censure vote in which they charged the Socialists with "moral and political dereliction" and policies which have brought "economic stagnation", the degradation of the public spirit, the loss of common purpose and disdain for parliamentary democracy.

In the event, after Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minis-

ter, gave a warning of the dangers of demagogery, his minority government scraped through.

Over the past week, both government and opposition have laid down their lines of battle. M. Mitterrand, who turned 76 on Monday, has made it known that he aims to stick it out to the end of his term in 1995 even if the party he founded and led to power in 1981 is defeated in the election.

After the Maastricht referen-

dendum, which revealed that the party had been deserted by its most loyal voters, the experts have been predicting a loss of half its seats. And, over the past week, the party has seemed intent on suicide, with infighting between the parliament and its ministers and even a prediction from one Socialist minister that the party is doomed to defeat.

The opposition leaders, Jacques Chirac and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, say they

will not repeat their two-year cohabitation government under M. Mitterrand in the mid-1980s. M. Giscard d'Estaing, who is determined to regain the throne M. Mitterrand took from him in 1981, says the president must either resign or drop into the background.

But M. Mitterrand is making clear that he will never accept a retreat to the ceremonial role in which pre-1958 heads of state spent their time "inaugurating chrysanthemums", as de Gaulle put it.

Matters were not improved when Laurent Fabius, the Socialist party leader, yesterday delivered a caustic portrait of his country after the Mitterrand decade: "I am struck by the fear I see everywhere," he said. "The fear about economic upheaval ... unemployment ... AIDS, drugs, violence, the lost young, ideology in shreds, our points of reference destroyed."

The opposition leaders, Jacques Chirac and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, say they

Spanish leader's ten-year reign is soured by economic woes

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

IT IS a bittersweet anniversary, but Señor González is assured a prominent place in the history books as today he celebrates ten years in power as Socialist prime minister of Spain. He is considered the most capable democratic Spanish leader this century, redressing the balance between the military, the church and nationalistic regions, increasing prosperity and setting Spain's international course on an even keel.

However, next year Señor González, 50, faces his toughest election battle yet. There are accusations that he has lost control of his corrupt party, the unions are calling him a traitor, his dream of a united Europe is fading and Spain's economy is collapsing.

A recent poll shows that 56 per cent of Spaniards favour him as leader, and he is respected for his fervent support of the European Com-



González facing tough election battle next year

(PSOE) won a landslide victory, but Señor González now desperately needs to concentrate on retaining his majority at home as well as pushing second division Spain into first division Europe.

A decade ago his Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol

(PSOE) credit, for several years the gross domestic product exceeded the average in the Community, which Spain joined in 1986. Inflation fell from 14.4 per cent to 6 per cent. Foreign investment and state scholarships increased tenfold, 1,875 miles of motorways and a high-speed train were built, 3.75 million tax dodgers were caught, pensions and health care cover were increased and terrorism declined.

Analysts now doubt that Spain will achieve its Maastricht convergence plan with a soaring public deficit, increasing inflation, and the highest unemployment figure in Europe, at 17.7 per cent.

Rabin vows to continue peace talks despite pressure from the right

Israelis ring south Lebanon with fire

FROM ALI JASER IN SIDON
AND RICHARD BRESTON
IN JERUSALEM

A BELT of fire and armour surrounded south Lebanon yesterday as Israel realized with air and artillery fire for the second consecutive day against an attack that killed five soldiers two days ago.

Lebanese police inside the security zone confirmed that about 900 Israeli troops backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved within striking distance of Shia villages to the north.

Earlier, Israeli warplanes went into action attacking bases in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley belonging to the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group Hezbollah. One woman was killed and two guerrillas were wounded according to Palestinian sources. Hezbollah was responsible for killing the soldiers on Sunday and the death yesterday of an Israeli youth in a rocket attack on the town of Kiryat Shmona. Elsewhere, three Israeli civilians were injured in two separate incidents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Afghan fears grow as president goes

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

AFTER four months in power, Afghanistan's President Rabbani is to step down today under an agreement for rotating the presidency among rival Mujahidin groups.

Power will pass to the leadership council; an uneasy alliance of ten rebel factions, which is expected to name another temporary president. The procedure is in effect keeping Afghanistan leaderless and ungoverned. There is no bureaucracy, no money, and precious little food.

Six months after seizing power from the Moscow-

backed regime of Dr Najibullah, the Mujahidin have been unable to put even a semblance of government in place in Kabul. There are growing fears in the region that the country is irreversibly dividing on ethnic lines.

All the rebel groups intend to meet soon in a "grand assembly" to try to agree on the nature and timing of elections, but there may be a fanciful idea in a country run by the gun. Pakistan, among others, is watching developments with alarm, fearing for its own stability.

In particular, he bemoaned the rejection by Palestinians of his offer to allow the 1.8 million Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories to hold elections this spring for an administrative council. He also ruled out any speedy resolution to the dispute with Syria over the Golan Heights. "I don't expect rapid changes in position it takes time, it is the Middle Eastern bazaar," he said.

Although he refused to discuss the outcome of the American presidential elections next week, he warned that a change of administration in Washington, co-sponsor of the peace talks, could delay progress at the negotiating table by months.

"If there is a change to Clinton there will be an interim of over two months and I don't know what will happen," said Mr Rabin, who has enjoyed close links to the Republican Party. "It can bring a prolongation of the negotiations."



Peace plea: as his warplanes attacked Palestinian positions in Lebanon, Yitzhak Rabin was vowing to defuse the tension and continue dialogue with the Arabs

Peking will 'fight to finish' over Patten reform plan

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

LU PING, Peking's top negotiator on Hong Kong, has warned Chris Patten that if he goes it alone on democracy in the territory, China will fight him all the way and is prepared to break all the rules.

"The Chinese side has already decided to fight to the finish... If you do not play by the rules, we will not play by the rules, and then we will see what the outcome is," Mr Lu was quoted as saying in the Peking-backed *Wei Wei Po*, a newspaper published in Hong Kong.

Mr Lu accused Mr Patten of breaking the rules in the joint declaration, the 1984 agreement between Britain and China on the handing over of Hong Kong. He also said that Mr Patten had violated a secret agreement that there would be no further democratisation in Hong Kong.

He demanded that the correspondence between Britain and China on the subject of the 1995 elections should be published, alleging that in the letters Britain agreed not to extend democracy in Hong Kong. Mr Patten has already said that he has no objections to the publication of the correspondence, which he says does not constitute a commitment not to extend democracy.

China is intensifying the pressure on Mr Patten after the first attempt to bully him into submission last week failed. Mr Lu first attacked Mr Patten when the governor left Peking last week after two days of talks that left the two sides in stalemate on the issue of democracy.

According to *Wei Wei Po*, Mr Lu said that if Mr Patten went ahead with his proposals, he would cause "great turmoil". China, he said, would do nothing to stir up trouble in the territory, and would not do anything "against the interests of the people". The same phrase was used to justify the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989. Mr Lu also appeared to be threatening an end to talks, saying that if Mr Patten was not willing to talk about conver-

Sumo idol to marry sex symbol

FROM AP IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S best loved sports hero Takahanada, 20, a sumo wrestling wonder, confirmed yesterday plans to wed the nation's sex symbol, Rie Miyazawa, 19, an actress whose collection of nude photos scandalised the country. The news sent the nation into giddy excitement.

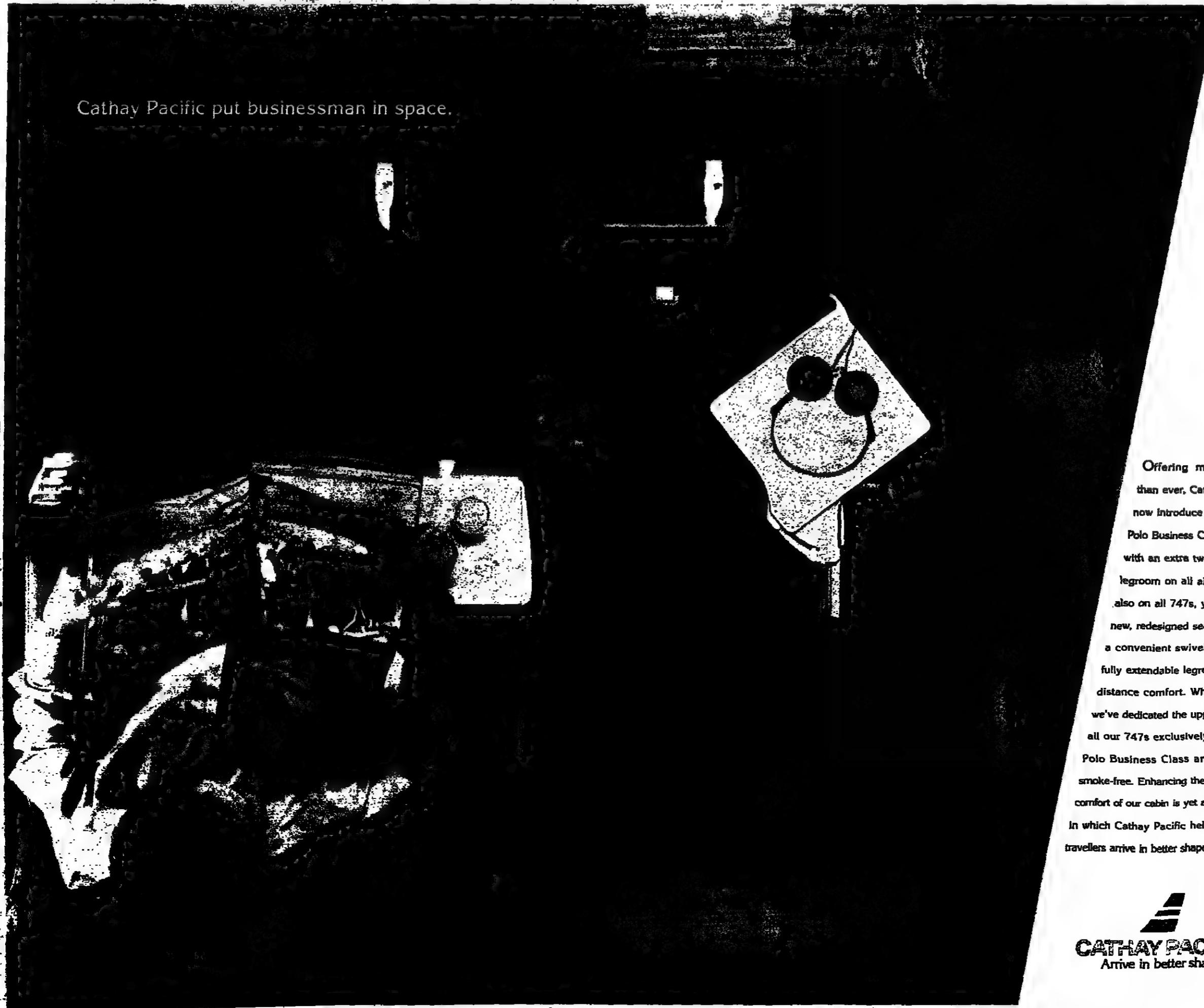
Miss Miyazawa told reporters that Takahanada, whose real name is Koji Hamada, had proposed by telephone, saying simply: "Let's get married."

The wrestler has become a male idol with a combination of good looks and skill that has put him among the top handful in Japan's national sport. The two are expected to marry next April.

Speaking of Takahanada last month, Miss Miyazawa said: "When I look at the sumo ring, I get that pitter-patter in my heart."

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Arrive in better shape.

White South African rugby administrators promised to level the playing field for all players. David Miller reports on the consequences of their failure

Game is up for the Boks

The withdrawal of sympathy and formal support from the current South African rugby union tour of France and England by the South African National Olympic Sports Congress (Nosc) is neither petulant nor pedantic. The action taken by Nosc and backed by the African National Congress (ANC), is a reluctant yet predictable response to an absence of goodwill by the still substantially white-backed South African governing body of rugby, Sarf.

The old white rugby power base, for so long an emotional platform of Afrikaner nationalism, has regarded the readmission to the international arena as too little a signal to a changed, racially-integrated future. Too much a mere pardon for the past and for the continuation of intellectual insularity.

The tour has been seized as an escape hatch for a return to former sporting triumphalism, rather than an opportunity to meet the need for a reassessment and new relationships. Some anti-apartheid organisations in Britain, Scandinavia and elsewhere will regard the statements by Nosc as a green light for fresh demonstrations against Afrikanerdom, with the prospect of serious disorder at South Africa's forthcoming matches

at Leicester, Bristol, Leeds and Twickenham; the first visit to England for 22 years.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU), for so long a mute applier for apartheid's evils — and thereby provocatively damaging in the past to Britain's other international sporting relationships — is understandably worried that rugby may again be cast as the black sheep, instead of creating a bridge towards professed brotherhood. It is worried with good reason.

The irony is that anti-apartheid protagonists in London remain militant in their ideology; more so than many black South African liberals who bear the responsibility of trying to reach a harmonious relationship in their volatile mixed-race society. By talking of disruption, the British protesters are in the long run now likely to do more harm than help to the well-being of South Africa.

The time arrived two years ago when black Africa realised that what South Africa needed was social fire-fighters much more than supplies of fuel for a fire that threatened absolute destruction. No one realised this more than Mhlulekile George, president of Nosc and initiator of this week's controversy.

Mr George, a former political prisoner on Robben Island, is fundamentally a healer, not a destroyer. He is not a bitter man, his most surprising characteristic being moderation in spite of having a neck permanently disfigured by police "correction".

It was Mr George, in conjunction with Steve Tshwete, the sports negotiator for ANC, who led the move towards South African readmission to the international arena, to the astonishment of anti-apartheid leaders, including those at the United Nations. Mr George and Mr Tshwete convinced their ideological associates that South Africa had to return, or be left bankrupt in sport by the time one-man-one-vote was eventually achieved.

Yet Sarf cannot say it was not warned. When a delegation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) visited Johannesburg and Cape Town last March to confirm details of South Africa's participation in the Olympic Games at Barcelona, Mr George stated that rugby must step in line with other integrated national governing bodies and create development programmes for non-white competitors.

He said: "Unless this is initiated, we shall stop the proposed New Zealand tour [in August] and others. Rugby is always telling us they need

tours to generate money, but

we've heard that too often. The former South African Rugby Board has plenty of money, but neither they nor Sarf are doing anything for development. Coaching is still predominantly for white children."

It is apparent, despite protests yesterday by Sarf, that

white South African rugby has grabbed the carrot of renewed tours and the prospect of hosting the 1995 World Cup, and ignored the stick. Rugby development programmes are apparently still conspicuous by their absence, even though the visiting Australian tour party in August gave coaching clinics at some townships.

The newly-created South African National Olympic Committee (Sancoc), together with Nosc and with the approval of Nelson Mandela, has been prepared to accept an imbalance in the black-white proportional composition of some national teams, selected on current merits, in the interest of progress.

But rugby, under the allegedly multi-racial Sarf administration and the white flag of neutrality, has not thrown away the old Broderbond insignia: the Springbok emblem, and the white national anthem *Die Stem*, which was sung before the match against New Zealand in August to international consternation. Mr George and the ANC suspect they have been double-crossed.

That sense of betrayal has been magnified by the official statement of Sarf, devoid of

regret, claiming only that it is Nosc which has broken its word; that Sarf is not interested in "cosmetic development programmes".

These were the words not of a progressive non-racial government but of entrenched reactionary defensiveness.

It is insufficient for white rugby apologists to claim that rugby is not like soccer, a natural game for blacks; a popular theme among rightist British sympathisers who whilst the old tune of politics have no place in sport. Playing rugby is also a matter of opportunity, or rather its absence, among South Africa's black majority.

Britain, so progressive in some of its administration in former colonial times, has for long been sadly immune to black South African sporting interests. The RFU was yesterday cautiously hedging its bets, related to take up any ideological position.

Huge strides have been made by South African sport this year: at the Olympic Games in Test cricket against the West Indies and now India, and in international athletics and football. It is an unfortunate coincidence that the latest crisis should occur on a visit to England, which, in this instance, is without blame.

General Zein Gadir, the IOC member for Sudan, is in England to inspect Manchester's bid to host the Olympic Games, said yesterday: "Rugby is in a different position from other sports in South Africa. They needed to make some demonstration of goodwill by bringing a few blacks in their party. In other sports Africa has not minded what South African international representatives, but this is something different."

Memories of mayhem

As contingency plans were being hurriedly drawn up by anti-apartheid protesters yesterday, memories were inevitably revived of the mayhem and bitterness that surrounded — and at times almost swamped — the last Springbok tour of Britain during the winter of 1969-70.

By recent standards, many of the schemes planned and executed by Peter Hain and his Stop-the-70-Tour committee seem more like good-natured schoolboy pranks than serious statements of militant outrage. They poured liquid lead into the keyholes of the tourists' bedroom doors to stop them emerging on match days and letting down the team-coach tyres.

Yet Mr Hain, now Labour MP for Neath who was then a national executive member of the Young Liberals, recalls how the protests mounted at all 25 matches on the tour not only made him "public enemy number one" but proved to be the turning-point in the whole question of South Africa's sporting relations with the rest of the world.

The number of spectators who watched the visitors' grand finale against the Barbarians at Twickenham had to be reduced by 25,000, while the whole North Stand closed to combat a big demonstration, but the tour was completed.

So did the campaign fail? "Not at all," Mr Hain says. "The tour in our title was always intended to refer to the proposed 1970 South African cricket tour, which was duly

cancelled. In fact, no South Africa national side in any sport has come to Britain since that rugby tour in 1969-70.

"On the eve of the tour, David Greaves, the man in charge of an South African rugby, said that no black player would ever play in his side immediately after getting home, he recognised that there were going to have to be changes — although it took a long time for them to happen."

Certainly we did get away with things like blocking the bus

gateways, but the day of the Twickenham game, and the other dates are also hooked up, but I will be with the protesters again," he says.

If there is no settlement of differences and the 1992 tour does proceed without the sanction of the National Olympic Sports Congress in South Africa, would the demonstration organiser have anything to complain from the initiatives taken by the Stop-the-70-Tour committee? "No, I don't think so," Mr Hain says. "The situation



Peter Hain is removed from Twickenham during the 1969-70 tour.

is so completely different this time. Then, apartheid was getting worse, and worse almost every week today it is more a case of feeling betrayed. Many of the things we did would not be necessary this time."

Meanwhile the Anti-Apartheid Movement is making plans for protests at the four grounds. "We will certainly be organising some kind of march on Twickenham but we cannot reveal any details until we have met with police officials there tomorrow," Claire McMaster, campaign organiser, said yesterday.

WILLIAM GREAVES

The leaping springbok has been a symbol of the South African national rugby team since 1903 when the side felt underprivileged beside a touring English team with their lions and Union Jacks. It brought the first South African side to England in 1906 the emblem was embroidered on their green and gold jerseys (derived from the old boys' colours of Bishops Diocesan School in the Cape where rugby was first played in the country). The press dubbed the team the Springboks and they have been called that ever since.

Virtually all other South African representa-

tive teams have been called Springboks since then, though since the Rugby Board was smart enough to copyright the leaping version, the other sports have had to make do with a similar head.

Springbok did not officially begin until the National Party came to power in 1948, the springbok name can be said to have predated it by 25 years. After the second world war the badge of the black rugby players, under the banner of the SA Rugby Union, was the proteas, the flower emblem of the country, flanked by springbok heads. When apartheid in the sport was officially abandoned this year the joint SA Rugby Football Union adopted the leaping springbok and the proteas as its symbol.

MICHAEL HAMLYN



Not satisfied: demonstrators display placards protesting against the arrival in South Africa of the Australian touring team in August.

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INTERCITY

SAFETY

With ideas to suit their office

Behind every great operator is a big office, and a bit of redecorating, says Rosie Millard

Robert Maxwell had a helicopter pad above his Commons office, and the grand sum of £3 million is to be spent on renovating the House of Lords building that will contain Baroness Thatcher's. Many executives, it seems, find it impossible to operate without a large and splendid office; executive suites, more than cars, spouses or even packagers have today become the physical symbols of professional clout.

Offices, as any employee knows, signify power. They express the outward aspirations of the incumbent: places for hiring and firing, they are rooms which, more than anywhere else, enable behaviour on one's own terms.

The critical thing to do when moving into a new office is to redecorate it as importantly as you can, and as soon as possible. Mini-bars, bathrooms, pop-up projection

'Why have an ordinary desk when you can have Winston Churchill's?'

screens, huge conference tables: the executive position is today surrounded by often useless paraphernalia which does little more than simply reflect her, or more often his, standing in the company hierarchy.

Offices have not always carried this weight. A showcase in the Design Museum reveals that offices only came into their own at the turn of the century, when the introduction of the telegraph, telephone and typewriter meant the office became simply a "clearing house" for information organised on a purely practical scale, they resembled industrial plants more than power bases. Yet as Michael Korda, the author of *Power: How to Use It and How to Get It*, points out, it was not long until megalomania spread to the arrangement of the simple desk and chair. "Fantasy offices project power," Mr Korda says. "Look at Hitler's office. It was vast. Mussolini's office required a walk of a hundred yards across a marble floor just to get to the desk." In the 1930s, the head of MGM actually arranged his desk on a plinth, gazing up at it, the visitor would be confronted with an illuminated display of MGM's Oscars.

The other key element is individuality. If the boss has ordinary office furniture in a fairly normal-looking room, you know he or she is not really in the running as far as the power stakes go. "Anyone can have chrome-topped tables or Bauhaus chairs these days," Mr Korda says. "It comes with the deal. People who are truly powerful have their office designed to



Orderly scene a hundred yards from the door: Mussolini's study at the Palazzo Venezia in Rome. Visitors, not the dictator, needed to know the time

make it clear they don't have to accept regular furniture." And so behind the door of the true power-broker you will find the Chippendale chairs, Grinling Gibbons paneling and "real" curtains surrounding authentic sash windows. As Mr Korda puts it: "Why have an ordinary desk when you can have Winston Churchill's?"

"My boss has an outer office, and an inner 'study' where all his important meetings take place," says Madeline Bell, who works at a London merchant bank. "The outer office is fairly normal, but his study is very daunting. It's all panelled with wood and Old English brass fittings, with high-backed chairs, a huge desk and a phone that looks like something out of Star Trek. When you're asked in to the study, you know it's for one of two reasons — a rise, or the sack. It gives him added authority for any meeting."

"The office of a powerful person represents illusions of grandeur in a style they would like to live in," Mr Korda says. "Particularly with men, you find they indulge in the Dutch masters or ship models of the 18th century, that they would never get away with at home." Apparently, antiques, not the latest high-technology, are what is important for the company bigwig. It gives two critical messages: that the incumbent did not arrive yesterday, and that he or she is not about to go tomorrow. In these financially uncertain times, an image of continuity is vital, according to Edward Cory, the chairman of the furniture makers Gordon Russell.



Margaret Thatcher in 10 Downing Street: she will be one of the few peers with an office of their own

"Tabling", rather than "deskling", with solid-looking meeting tables, is now the thing for the inner sanctum. "It gives a perception of openness and stability in leadership," Mr Cory says.

Views are also important: note that the bosses in the London Television Centre lord it over spectacular views of the Thames as well as over several hundred employees. Granada TV's *This Morning*, which comes from the Albert Dock in Liverpool, enjoys offices on the banks of the Mersey. Yet the space from which to admire the ferry landing beside the Liver

Building is maintained for the person (she is one of the few peers to have an office of her own), did ask for a suite of offices but the House of Lords, where shortage of office space is an even bigger problem than in the Commons, was unable to meet her request. It remains to be seen how her office will be redecorated but Mr Korda is convinced we will see the incarnation of an image of power.

"Mrs T won't want it to look like a grocer's shop. My guess is that she'll go for an early 19th-century English office. Kind of place the Duke of Wellington might have had."

necessitated a shift of personnel (she is one of the few peers to have an office of her own), did ask for a suite of offices but the House of Lords, where shortage of office space is an even bigger problem than in the Commons, was unable to meet her request. It remains to be seen how her office will be redecorated but Mr Korda is convinced we will see the incarnation of an image of power.

"Mrs T won't want it to look like a grocer's shop. My guess is that she'll go for an early 19th-century English office. Kind of place the Duke of Wellington might have had."

What induces men to shave the hair off their faces every day? Vanity? Masochism? Peer pressure? A shaver and a non-shaver explain

The bare-faced cheek of it all

Shaving truly is a perversion — a form of female impersonation practised in private by most men in the world every single day of their lives. I have had a beard for more than 20 years, and I still resent the fact that to be "clean-shaven" (even leaving aside the inference that those who are not harbour some unspeakable dirtiness) is seen as the perfectly natural and normal state, whereas as we all know, it is a bald illusion — merely the result of the often painful ritual of regularly removing the natural secondary sexual characteristic in a strange bid to emulate a woman's complexion.

Women intuitively appreciate the essential femininity of hairlessness, most of them quite as willing as men to undergo discomfort and inconvenience to deplete most parts of themselves. A woman has no desire to apply hair restorer to her face, or to attach false whiskers with spirit gum in order to lend herself a masculine swagger. Hairiness is male: hairy legs, arms and hands are all viewed as acceptable, even desirable, on a man (and so too were hairy chests, until the current icons of masculinity — the Chippendales, the Dream Boys and similarly revolting phenomena — began to shave their collective and rather alarmingly bounteous *embonpoint*).

So far, no argument. So why do 99 per cent of men every day feel obliged to plough through the 30,000 whiskers that someone who must have been spectacularly bored has estimated make up the typical male beard? Certainly not because they enjoy it: it hurts, and so do the astringents which purport to close the pores and soothe the pain, but in practice serve only to ignite the newly-flayed tenderness.



Razor question: hirsute Joseph Connolly (left) and the fresh-faced Robert Crampton

The Prince of Wales grew a beard, few would follow his example if John Major tried one on for size, the greybeard jokes would soon shock him into thinking again.

The only person in the world who could carry it off is Madonna. The socio-sexual ramifications would be truly awe-inspiring: but then, gender-bending isn't Madonna's exclusive domain — men do it every morning.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Why do I shave? I shave because I don't like the consequences of my not shaving. In other words I don't like what would more properly be called the few clumps of facial hair that grow if I do not remove them. I stress *my* beard, because I have no objection (like Ross Perot) to beards in general, only a great many individual beards of which my own is my least favourite.

The idea that every man

over the age of 18 has a full, dense growth of beard is a myth. I am 28, and what I have, and by now, presumably, all I ever will have, is this two clumps covering an area about as big as a new ten pence piece on each side of my chin, a little nub below my lower lip, a sparse smattering on my top lip, and then about 15 random hairs on either cheek. That's the lot. Not exactly George Michael is it?

This collection — what 300 hairs in all? — if left, develops

over four days into a "beard" of sorts, but it is not Fyodor Dostoevsky, it is not Ernest Hemingway, it is not Joe Connolly, it is not even the current Bob Geldof minimalist Fu Man Chu. No, my beard is an army cadet, it is a virgin policeman, it is a teenage runaway with mangle, it is an unjoined-up Leon Trotsky. It is a mess. It is absurd. It must be removed. So every four days, I shave my beard off.

T he question is, even if I could drum up some full Mickey Rourke stubble, would I still shave?

The answer is yes, for three reasons. First, I like shaving, possibly because, at speed, it takes up about 90 seconds twice a week, though I usually string it out. I like the whole rigmarole, the routine, the time to myself. I like the clobber too — the brush, the razor, the pot of foam — the "tackle", as these little odds and sods of the masculine experience are tellingly called in James Bond books. I think most men like shaving, even the ones who have beards. That's another myth: that men with beards don't shave. Some don't — the stuff-this-for-lark, never-been-near-a-razor-and-proud-of-it minority. I rather admire them. Their beards — Karl Marx going on Santa Claus — may be aesthetically repugnant, but at least their views are intellectually coherent.

But there is another, more widespread sort: the vain bearded, the one who professes he can't be bothered to shave, but actually spends more time

In praise of womanwatching

I am always irritated when someone attacks glossy magazines as the malign promulgators of female vanity and all its attendant psychological ills. Both old-school feminists and male woman-haters simplistically believe that the many matters of appearance that absorb women are some sort of silly and dangerous false consciousness forced upon us by too much looking at magazines.

In fact, fashion and beauty magazines are only the tip of the iceberg of a submerged female culture that exists throughout Western societies. Women themselves, not the magazines, are the most acute and effective adjudicators upon each other's looks. With or without reference to magazines, we are the real enforcers of standards of beauty, fashion and fitness among our peers and colleagues, and even up and down the generations within the family.

Every woman also knows that dressing to pass muster with women friends is far more subtle, demanding and rewarding than dressing to please a man — easy by comparison.

Which of us can deny the running commentary that plays in our minds when we greet a friend? However dear she may be, the mental checklist must be run through before anything else is established: is she fatter or thinner? Healthy or pealy? How's her hair — and where did she get that jacket? No need for guilt about this, for as you embrace, you can be absolutely certain, the friend is running exactly the same check on you.

Some findings may be articulated ("Hey, you're looking great!", "You're so skinny!" or "Are you tired?"). Others are taboo until mentioned by the sufferer: this is particularly true of the disastrous haircut, which will be greeted by inward laughter on the part of the beholder, but converted to outward sympathy on the proper cue: if no one female mentions your new hairstyle, you can assume it's awful. If you lament its awfulness first, however, you can rely on a woman to remind you that hair grows and to say, nicely, that it isn't that bad anyway.

Male observers of these exchanges have always interpreted them as evidence of the irredeemable bitchiness, jealousy and competitiveness of women, and these qualities are what fashion magazines are said to amplify and exploit in some massive commercial conspiracy.

What is never acknowledged is the constructive side of our visual awareness of each other: that it is also our way of watching over each other's health and well-being. A friend who gets too thin or too fat no longer provokes quiet envy or satisfaction in the beholder. She makes us worry: is she depressed, anorexic, bulimic, and why? If she's looking pale and tired, what's wrong?



SARAH MOWER

Is she hung over, overworking, suffering from PMT, or good Lord — pregnant? If the instant visual analysis is alarming, it will be followed by gentle probing and the application of skillful talking therapy. It's a social safety valve no one should underestimate.

Also not to be underestimated is our capacity for admiration of one another. Women are generous with compliments when friends and colleagues are looking good. We tend to rate our women friends as attractive, intelligent and fascinating, and genuinely can't understand it if men don't agree.

All of these complex strands of women's collective looks-consciousness weave together to create the environment in which fashion magazines can exist. To think that magazines make unwitting beauty slaves and fashion victims of their readers is vastly to underestimate our facility for sifting, analysing and discriminating.

It also ignores the way that women's magazines are a conduit for the most up-to-date information on medicine, psychology and self-help. Readers of women's magazines were among the first to learn that though images of slim models are implicated somewhere in the psychology of eating disorders, the root of the problem lies in something for which fashion cannot be blamed: feelings of powerlessness and anger that come from women's unequal position in society.

Every balanced woman knows there's a distinction to be drawn between what looks good in pictures, and what applies in real life. It is also true that the women we remember as the great dressers of all time are never the merely pretty or the preety-fashionable, but those who made something of themselves, became more like themselves and better at doing it as they got older. What the modern woman really aspires to is that proud and independent ability to see herself objectively and to be influenced by fashion only so far as it is useful for her own ends. Which is why glossy magazines are a tool for women's self-development and not an instrument of our oppression.

mer look. You shave off the chin hair, and you're a Dickensian bully. Why bother?

And the third reason? Well, I may be wrong, but I can't help feeling that most men grow beards because they've got something to hide, something unpleasant, such as no chin, a singular chin like Jimmy Hill's or more chins than nature intended. I wouldn't want to be the sort of guy who camouflaged imperfection with hair and besides, there's nothing much wrong with my chin. If there were, I'd clean shave and tough it out just the same. Given my growth, I wouldn't have much choice would I?

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A government in turmoil: can Tory unity be regained under its present leader?

Why the prime minister should go

Paul Johnson makes an impassioned plea for Major to step down in order to save his party

Like many political commentators, I have given John Major a generous honeymoon when he became prime minister, and when I was disturbed by some of his earlier actions, I allowed him the benefit of the doubt. More, his courageous election victory against the odds aroused my warm admiration. But during the summer and autumn the conviction that he has the qualities to be prime minister, especially a Conservative one, has gradually been undermined, and is now collapsed completely. I believe he should go — without delay.

Mr Major's errors are almost too numerous to list, but seven sins stand out, all of them deadly. First, Mr Major's (and Norman Lamont's) unqualified assurances that they would maintain sterling's value in the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) were not merely foolhardy but, as it turned out, dishonourable. Convinced of Mr Major's sincerity and competence, many thousands of patriotic individuals and firms refused to switch from pounds into marks, and as a result have seen a loss of about 15 per cent in their reserves or savings. Others, who knew the prime minister would break his word, made fortunes: one man \$1 billion.

Mr Major clearly owed the nation an apology. But none came. Just as some children nowadays are brought up not to know even the concept of "please" and "thank you", so I fear Mr Major cannot grasp what an apology is, let alone find the words to make one.

Second, it is now evident that Mr Major's Citizen's Charter, the one piece of policy he has personally produced as prime minister, is a meaningless piece of window-dressing. Far from embodying Mr Major's democratic principles, it merely reveals that he has none. For the essence of such a charter must be the recognition that the citizen has the final word on the way his or her life is shaped by government. No treaty in history will have more impact on the daily lives of ourselves, our children and grandchildren, than Maastricht. Yet Mr Major refuses a referendum. He says Parliament must decide.

But when parliamentary opposition, undoubtedly reflecting widespread public feeling, as the polls show, presents itself, he turns on it savagely, not only threatening every variety of torture known to the

very men whose courage had saved the nation during the most dangerous strike in its history. They had given their all for democracy in the pits, and Mr Major's response was to turn them into the streets. One is entitled to ask if a prime minister will betray the democratic miners, whom will he betray?

Then there was the attempt to shut down the mines. The episode had the unfortunate benefit of destroying any remaining prime ministerial ambitions of Michael Heseltine. That egregious dandy, gorgeously arrayed in his self-created presidential robes, fell flat on his handsome face in the mire.

Whoever said God has no sense of humour? But the important point was that Mr Major approved the closures. They involved in particular destroying the jobs of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, the

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that. Then, two or three days later, he does it. Like Lear, he says "I will do such things — what they are yet I know not — but they shall be the terrors of the earth." But nothing follows, and no one is terrified any longer.

Theodore Roosevelt advised: "Speak softly, and carry a big stick." Mr Major speaks loudly and carries a matchstick.

The fifth deadly sin is that Mr Major has made possible what I can only call a low moral tone in his government. It seems to be a government of chums — some would say of cronies — whose chief political principle is to stick together.

Mr Major says: "Keep them?" That seems likely but we ought to be told whether it is true or not.

As it is, Mr Major has given the impression that his is a government from which no one resists unless forced to do so by overwhelming public, media and backbench pres-

sure. The fact that Mr Lamont remains in office after the devaluation fiasco has immeasurably lowered the prestige of the Chancellor's office in the eyes of the City and the world. The assumption is that he cannot go without dragging down Mr Major with him. Others take their cue from ministers. Thus the governor of the Bank of England ignores the implication of the Bingham report and clings to his job. It is as if he says: "Why should I resign? No one else does these days." The context of the honourable resignation has lapsed — one hopes only temporarily.

The sixth deadly sin, the consequence of all the others, is that Mr Major has forfeited his authority.

Like others before him — Rosebery, for example, or Harold Wilson in 1969-70 — he has lost control of his cabinet. His colleagues neither respect nor fear him, and cling together more from a sense of self-preservation than because they are led. The confidence of the backbenchers in Mr Major is likewise disappearing. They are beginning to wield the whips and scorpions themselves. Policy, if only in a negative sense, is increasingly set not by the cabinet but by the 1922 Committee. That is no way to run a government or the country.

There is the final deadly sin — less a sin, perhaps, than a predicament — the deterioration in the prime minister's morale and self-control. He simply does not possess the resilience to withstand the pressures of being a prime minister in a crisis. Two or three months ago, I thought of Mr Major as a Wilson, a man able enough to become prime minister but uncertain of what to do when he got there, other than believe prime ministerial, since he does not possess a body of settled opinions. Now, after the experience of the last fortnight, I see him more as a Sir Anthony Eden. For those old enough to remember the Suey year, 1956, there are some disturbing parallels.

It was said of Eden that, under pressure, "he behaved like a beautiful but hysterical woman". Mr Major is certainly no beauty. But the element of hysteria seems to be there. As someone remarked to me earlier this week: "It may be that Major will have to be removed not so much by the men in dark suits as by the men in white coats." That is unfair. But certainly the temperament needed to make Number Ten a calm, still centre in a turbulent world is conspicuously lacking.

If this judgment I have drawn up is valid, then the sooner Mr Major goes the better, for the seven deadly sins will not be exorcised: they will multiply. The longer he stays, the more the Tory crisis will deepen, and the more likely it will be that, in desperation, they will have to turn to Margaret Thatcher as they turned to Churchill in 1940. That is certainly what I desire and foresee. But is it what Tony M's want? If not, they should act with all deliberate speed.

Tomorrow: Bruce Anderson will put the case for the prime minister.



John Major must stay and fight another day

If the Tories keep their cool they can readily muddle through their latest difficulties, writes Simon Jenkins

John Major had his referendum on Maastricht on Monday night. It was rather a good one. The question was not a crude yes or no. It was framed to reflect shades of opinion, including on Mr Major himself. Its conclusion is binding. If the prime minister is told he cannot carry a substantive pro-Maastricht vote after his "paving" debate next Wednesday, he will not try. His general election bluff will have been called. His cabinet will not commit collective suicide on his funeral pyre. He knows that and can live to fight another bruising day.

A technical adjournment motion is now likely to be substituted instead and will be carried. The Maastricht bill will be tabled later with the support of Labour. It will float through the chamber into next year, either passing messily into law or being put out of misery by another Danish No. It thus makes no difference whether Maastricht is a treaty vital to British interests, or a neo-fascist monster, or a harmless dinosaur almost certain to become extinct. Mr Major should be in the clear, embarrassed but in the clear.

This assumes only that Mr Major has not completely torn up the rules of his trade and gone politically silly in the head. In view of his behaviour at the weekend, this prospect must at least be addressed. In 1990, the unique selling proposition of John Major for the leadership was as a tactical genius. True, he was a bit short on ideology. Yes, he seemed grey and inexperienced. But when it came to

late-night number crunching with the whips he was a wow. As we saw with the poll tax, he knew when to hold the scrum, when to break on the blind side or when to dummy or kick for touch.

So what on earth was this on Saturday about a general election if he loses? I believe that there are moments in politics, as in war, when strategy must be thrown to the winds, when a leader stops everything, rolls up his sleeves and gets down to tactics. Mr Major decided at the famous October 15 cabinet to defy caution and risk early ratification. He badly wanted to show his virility, face down the rebels and put on a strong show as European president. He indicated that, like Melbourne, he wanted supporters who would back him when he was wrong, not just when he was right.

The calculation was a fine one. The whips could not rely on Labour MPs to support Maastricht on the paving motion, but could probably rely on the Liberal Democrats. If the latter cancelled out the 20 or so diehard Tory sceptics, there still remained a further 30 to 40 "soft sceptics" to secure. The best tactic would be to play long, make the paving motion a technical one and spin out the bill procedure into the year. The Council of Ministers could be satisfied that Britain was not just sheltering behind Denmark. The gambit was bold but possible.

A thesis could be written on the catastrophes that result from Downing Street staff travelling in

the same plane as the press. The practice should cease in the interest of good government. Those bored, overheated, intoxicated cabins degenerate into a Neroonian orgy of gossip and speculation.

Thus did Mr Major hurl his spluttering thunderbolts at the rebels at the weekend. Maastricht, he said, was a decision of overwhelming importance to Britain, to Europe and, with a swelling breast, to the future of John Major himself. The general election threat was not denied. Calumnies were heaped on the heads of the hated Eurosceptics. Tired metaphors were spouted about missed trains and offshore islands. All suggested a new boy who has been told he cannot join the big boys' club until

he proved himself a bully. Far from a British prime minister sitting four square at the heart of Europe, Europe seemed to be sitting four square on the heart of a British prime minister.

Negotiating European reform takes British politicians in diametrically opposite ways. It reduces such as Margaret Thatcher and Norman Lamont to a frenzied xenophobia. Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe react by going native, convinced that opposing the "greater union" is both intellectually disreputable and traitorous. Similar temperamental parallels existed among policy-makers towards Europe in the 1970s. Until recently Mr Major's talent was to have trodden a pragmatic path

between these two positions. Not any more.

What is extraordinary in Mr Major's case is how swiftly he has switched from pragmatic to Eurosceptic mode. He went to Maastricht 11 months ago virtually a born-again Thatcherite after demolishing the Dutch "federal" draft Cabinet distaste for the treaty, supported by furious briefing, was palpable. Mr Major fought clause after clause. When he announced the outcome as "game, set and match for Britain" the general view was that he had done a grand job. Had he gone for instant ratification, he would probably have secured it.

Every movement in European opinion since then has vindicated

his pre-Maastricht scepticism. Yet Mr Major suddenly began to veer, leaving his most loyal supporters confused. Was scepticism in or out? Were we going slow or fast? In the Commons on September 24, Mr Major seemed to be emphatic that he would wait on a definition of subsidiarity. He said: "When we are satisfied that such a system has been put in place and when we are clear that the Danes have a basis on which they can put the treaty back to their electorate, we shall bring the Maastricht bill back to the House." He repeated this line again and again.

Not so in October. Mr Major seemed frightened of new ghosts. The Foreign Office tried desperately to pretend that the treaty was the "first great step back from centralism" (it roughly doubles the number of policies in which Brussels can establish leverage). Douglas Hurd's beloved clause 3b on subsidiarity was dismissed as meaningless by one eminent lawyer after another, however much midnight oil is burnt in the Foreign Office to find a protocol to give it substance. Mr Major began hurling abuse at the Eurosceptics in conversation to all and sundry.

Nobody regards Maastricht as perfect. Treaties are always thus. Locarno was full of holes. Even the Triple Entente was a curate's egg. Maastricht is peculiar in the violence of its differing interpretations. But what is clear is that neither Mr Major with his tervgitations nor the whips with their threats have been able to persuade his Com-

Prince and the playwright

IF THE TWO little princes, William and Harry, do not know their Bottom from their Mark Antony it will not be the fault of their father. So concerned is Prince Charles about the teaching of Shakespeare in schools that he intends to set up a summer school to further the fading art of making the Bard more accessible to students of English.

Clearly aware that it is now possible to gain degrees in English Literature at certain universities without even studying the great plays, the Prince has approached the Royal Shakespeare Company's educational arm to help with the project which is likely to be instituted in either Stratford or Oxford.

Prince insiders say the Prince, who is an active president of the RSC, has always shown an impressive grasp of the subject himself and has, in the past, given well-received lectures on Shakespeare. At the Everyman launch this week, the royal held a captive audience including Sir Isaiah Berlin and Kenneth Branagh as he discussed ideas for the summer school.

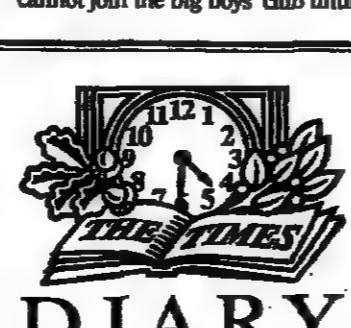
Branagh, whose film of *Henry V* Prince Charles has seen three times, is expected to become involved with the venture.

"The Prince feels it would be a terrible loss to British culture if our children ignore the works of Shakespeare," says a Palace insider. "I am sure that now Kenneth Branagh is aware of the project, he will be very interested."

Prince Charles admits to finding some solace in the works of Britain's greatest playwright. *Henry V* is a particular favourite.

... makes the world full of ill-favoured children! (As you like it)

 GED



"Each time I have seen or read the play it has been the humanity of the King that has moved me most," he told a gathering of academics last year, quoting from the play. "What infinite heart's ease / Must kings neglect, that private men enjoy!" Whatever the result of his plans, Shakespeare would surely approve of the Prince's sentiments — one man in his time plays many parts, after all.

Safe and sound

The effects of the recession are spreading to parts hitherto blissfully unaffected by temporal hardship. The monks and masters of Ampleforth Abbey are to be seen singing the praises of burglar alarms on a

Yorkshire Television commercial next month. The Roman Catholic public school and alma mater to Cardinal Basil Hume, the Duke of Norfolk, and Lord Heseltine, the government chief whip in the House of Lords, is departing from the plainsong to extol the virtues of the Harrington-based No 6 Group Security Systems.

The firm turned to the College to try to produce a light advertisement with a serious message. Les Quigley, the company's chief executive, says: "We picked a simple first world war tune. We then needed some voices for the lyrics. I have heard the superb schola canorum in Ampleforth Abbey on many occasions so I contacted the music director, Ian Little, for help."

The boys were about to go on leave but Little was able to produce a handful of Benedictine monks and tuneful masters. It could be the start of a lucrative sideline.

• What do foreign exchange dealers do when not making billions at the expense of the Bank of England? The sensitive souls in the strip shirts turn to poetry to chronicle the grasser side of life in the City, it seems. In what is billed as "possibly the first ever book of fi-

nancial poetry", two teenage scribblers, under the pen names Gog and Magog, have produced Poems From The Square Mile. Trading literary skill for topicality, the duo have penned such lines as "If Souter had been a Maxwell Pensioner"; "It was an autumn evening / Old Maxwell's work was done / And he had got upon his yacht / To somewhere in the sun ... Ted Hughes need not be unduly worried.

Clinton's Napoleon

AT LEAST one member of the Oxford mafia preparing to move into the White House with Bill Clinton will have no difficulty asserting his intellectual stature. But Robert Reich's undoubted academic prowess does not extend to the physical. Now one of America's leading economic gurus, he was once described by Clinton, whom he met when they were both Rhodes scholars,

as the smallest American he had ever met. He is 4ft 10in. At his Ivy League School at Dartmouth fellow pupils called Reich "Little Napoleon" because he was so small but compensated for it by mastering everything he attempted.

The arrival of Reich at University College with Clinton in 1968 — they then went on to Yale together — has passed into college legend.

When Reich presented himself at the porters' lodge, in the company of another Rhodes scholar, the porter barked: "They promised us two Rhodes scholars and they have sent one-and-a-half."

• As minister in charge of the Citizen's Charter, William Waldegrave should know better than to risk running the gauntlet of the train-using public before breakfast. The minister was mobbed while waiting for the 6.57 morning express from Bath to London this week. The train, which was already some minutes late, first failed to stop at platform two and was then forced to reverse more than a hundred metres making it even later. As Waldegrave boarded, he was surrounded by passengers wondering whether they were entitled to compensation as the train had been late — twice.



The aptly named Edwina Currie, Emma Nicholson and 77 fellow MPs celebrated the launch of the Curry Club at the Red Fort restaurant in Soho yesterday. Conspicuous by his absence was Ninj Deva (centre), the first Conservative Asian MP, who is serving a life ban from the restaurant. "He got too exuberant in 1985," says the manager.

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Stylized logo with the letters 'J' and 'K' intertwined.



WAYS OF ESCAPE

The prime minister can still confound his enemies

Europe was the proximate cause of Margaret Thatcher's downfall. John Major appears bent on courting, quite gratuitously, a similar fate. Ranged though they now are on opposite sides of the Tory barricades, a parallel can already be drawn between two leaders who allowed the tenacious defence of principle to degenerate into stubborn adhesion to dogma.

Under pressure from a divided party, Baroness Thatcher lost sight of her original, coherent if unromantic, vision of a Europe of nation states co-operating where it served their interests. She instead fell back on a crude, single-minded and often emotional defence of British sovereignty, narrowly defined. Her party would not follow her into this bunker. Mr Major is showing signs of constructing one of his own.

Soon after taking office, Mr Major deliberately sought to put himself at a safe distance from his predecessor. He presented himself as a hard bargainer, but one who did not consider Europe to be hostile territory. His broad commitment to a "Britain at the heart of Europe" earned dividends at the Maastricht summit, even if, paradoxically, the principal gain lay in steering Britain clear of automatic involvement in European monetary union, the project at the heart of the Maastricht treaty. Yet so obsessed has the prime minister become with banking this triumph of damage-limitation, that he is beginning to act as though the Maastricht treaty were a convincing substitute for policy, and its ratification by the British Parliament his sole objective.

British interests in Europe cannot be so narrowly defined. In important respects, Maastricht is an answer to what have become the wrong questions. The political union envisaged under Maastricht was born of the French determination to lock united Germany within the West. Times have changed since 1990. There is now a contingency of interest between East and West Europe's economic and even political security requires the EC to play its part in tearing down the economic and political barriers it was so successful in erecting against the communist menace. With the ending of the Cold war, it has never been more true, in Palmerston's words, that Britain has no eternal allies, and no perpetual enemies.

Mr Major needs to explain what grounds he has, in this transformed European continent, for believing that Maastricht is the right route to placing Britain at Europe's heart. More importantly, he needs to explain why the Europe that will be created under the Maastricht blueprint of "ever closer union" will be more peaceful, more prosperous, and more open to the post-communist world.

That means going back to basics. Maastricht, like any treaty, is no more than a means to an end. About the desirable end, the British are as near unanimous as democracies can ever be. British membership of the EC is not in question. Britain has many interests in common with other European countries, and needs to use the Community's machinery — with all the compromises this must involve — where these interests can be furthered by joint action.

The EC has prospered thanks to this essentially piecemeal, flexible approach to co-operation. Maastricht, however, breaks with this tradition, at least with regard to monetary union. It imposes time-limited steps towards this goal, to which governments will be treaty-bound to adhere. This "top down" approach is as undesirable as it seems likely to prove unrealistic. At the heart of the popular resistance to Maastricht in Europe is a healthy antipathy to being dragooned. That is why not even ratification by all 12 EC governments will end the Maastricht debate: every stage of its implementation will be a struggle in every country.

In negotiating its terms, Mr Major had the right motives. He was determined to involve Britain fully in the kinds of co-operation which would protect Europe from the worst recrudescences of nationalism; and he wanted to set the EC on course broader membership. The project has misfired in most EC countries creating a nationalist backlash against what is widely perceived as a European superstate in the making. The EC's poorer countries are demanding enormous subventions from its richer members as the price of monetary union, and the rules governing EMU — to which they will have to commit themselves on entry — will effectively exclude the still poorer states of eastern and southern Europe from EC membership.

At Birmingham, Mr Major acknowledged the strength of this popular revolt across Europe, but he remains unwilling to acknowledge its force in Britain, or the implications for his own policy. He seems not to recognise that the real challenge he confronts is not simply to get this treaty through Parliament, but to raise his eyes above the tactical battle and spell out convincingly why victory would be a victory for Britain.

Consider, by dismal contrast, the reasons the government has put forward, since December 1990, in support first of seeking a deal, then of ratification. The first is the familiar train-catching case. Britain must be part of the "construction of Europe", or be left behind by the other 11 EC states. It was because this argument had real force in 1990 that Mrs Thatcher lost the party leadership.

Since then, however, the doubts of the more rational British Eurosceptics about the

wisdom of Maastricht have become increasingly common ground, shared for a wide variety of reasons by most Danes, by nearly half the French electorate and by the majority of Germans, whose attachment to the market was seriously underestimated by their government. Enthusiasm for Maastricht will wane in the poorer EC countries if, as is likely, Germany leads a revolt against the cost of helping them to meet the criteria for the EMU that clearly many Germans do not even want.

There is thus no certainty that Britain would be alone with Denmark if it decided not to go ahead. The Danish "no" made public across Europe think again. EC governments could hardly attempt to sweep aside a British rejection as they have Denmark's. They would be more likely to bring forward the review of the EC's machinery envisaged for 1996: renegotiation under another name. This might mean a multispeed Europe but it is at least reasonable to ask whether this is not a more natural, and more healthy, way for European cooperation to evolve than within the straitjacket of an over-ambitious treaty which may not be fully implemented.

The second argument, which Mr Major and Douglas Hurd have repeatedly emphasised since the Maastricht summit, is that the treaty would roll back the EC's centralising empire, restoring power to national governments. The magic formula, the treaty's subsidiarity clause, is now almost universally admitted to be worthless. Even aside from its ambiguity as to who decides where power should properly reside, the much vaunted restrictions on community power apply only to "areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence". Mr Major promises to use the British presidency to convert subsidiarity from a meaningless olive-branch for national susceptibilities into a working framework governing interpretation of the treaty. The vapid conclusions of this month's Birmingham summit hold out small hope that he will succeed.

British ministers have also made much of the EC's exclusion from the purely intergovernmental nature of co-operation in foreign and security policy, justice and home affairs; yet the treaty explicitly states that "the Commission shall be fully associated with the work" in both these areas. The government's claim that Brussels will be kept out would thus appear, at the least, to contravene the Trades Descriptions Act.

The treaty's defenders are on somewhat stronger ground when they contend that were Maastricht to be rejected, the EC's confusion and loss of purpose would jeopardise the success of its greatest co-operative endeavour, the opening of a single European market at the end of this year. That is a genuine risk; but so is the undermining of the single market if countries experience severe economic strains as they try to meet the targets for EMU, within the Maastricht deadline of 1999.

Even if Britain's opt-out from EMU can be maintained — which is likely in practice only if other EC countries abandon the goal — the opt-out clause cannot insulate it from a wave of protectionism brought on by EMU-related recession in the rest of the EC. If EMU is as ill-conceived as Britain believes, the argument for the treaty as a whole remains stubbornly elusive.

Mr Major genuinely believes that failure to ratify Maastricht would set back by years the widening of the EC. But unanimity is required for the admission of new members. France's hostility to a larger EC is second only to its stubborn defence of the lunacies of the common agricultural policy, and part of the attraction of Maastricht to the French government is that it raises the costs of entry.

Rich Sweden is already counting the cost of shadowing the ERM. For countries such as Poland, the disciplines of EMU would be bankrupting. Mr Major may yet become a convert to "variable geometry", an EC which offers different countries different levels of co-operation. If so, better before Britain commits itself to the Maastricht treaty than after the event.

If Mr Major is to re-establish his leadership and authority, which he has so firmly linked to Maastricht, he must engage strongly on these fronts. He has, however, retreated steadily from such engagement, even to the point of seeking refuge in the pathetic claim that if he fails to "deliver" on Maastricht his EC partners will never trust him, or Britain, again. This is ridiculous. If so of Britain, why not of Denmark?

Downing Street's answer is that the Danish government negotiated in good faith, and has suffered defeat at the hands of its electorate. That would be one way out of Mr Major's own dilemma. He has refused a referendum knowing that all opinion polls point to a British rejection of Maastricht. This is no basis on which to commit the country to the great constitutional changes involved in European political and economic union on Maastricht's terms. If he cannot put it to voters with complete confidence in a "yes" vote, he should question the wisdom of whipping it through Parliament.

Mr Major cannot just go on clutching at the treaty as though it were a paper raft. He should pursue the ratification of Maastricht only if he is prepared to defend it not in negative terms, not in terms of British opt-outs, but as an integral part of his vision for Europe. He recognises that Maastricht is flawed. He must quickly set out what the Edinburgh summit must achieve, both to reassure the Danes (without whose assent, the treaty is legally dead) and to enable him to command the treaty wholeheartedly to the British people.

Such doughty advocates as Audrey

From Professor June Clark, President of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, Sir Bernard Tomlinson has proposed the closure or merger of some of London's most celebrated hospitals (reports and leading article, October 24), unleashing an entirely understandable tide of anger and concern.

It is worth recalling the historic reasons for the foundation of hospitals which form part of London's and the nation's heritage. Most were established by public benefactors to meet the needs of the capital's most deprived residents.

Centuries later, sadly, the inner city of London still has some of the worst areas of deprivation in the country. Londoners need facilities appropriate for their changing needs — better primary health care, better facilities for frail elderly people and for those suffering chronic and debilitating illness.

The Tomlinson report offers an historic opportunity to address those needs by expanding community-based facilities. Some of those facilities would continue to be offered in the hospital setting. Others would be offered to Londoners, for the first time, in local health centres and in their own homes. Nurses would have a key role in all settings; hence our view that London needs all its nurses.

The status quo is not an option. London is already suffering widespread, piecemeal cuts in both hospital and community services, and these will continue as the internal market in health leads purchasing authorities to question the economic justification for sending their residents up to the capital for treatment.

Unless a coherent pan-London plan for the future pattern of the capital's health services is developed and funded, there is little prospect of addressing the inner-city deprivation which so distressed the founding benefactors of our historic hospitals.

Nor will it be possible to safeguard and develop the specialist expertise and excellence in clinical practice which has become a resource for the whole nation.

If the government chooses to treat Tomlinson simply as a cost-cutting exercise, the results for London will be disastrous.

Yours sincerely,
JUNE CLARK,
President,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1.
October 26.

From Dr Ian E. Smith and Dr Trevor J. Powles

Sir, Your support for Tomlinson's recommendation that the "Edwardian" Royal Marsden cancer hospital should move to "modern facilities" at the Charing Cross Hospital in Hammersmith is based on a false premise. Behind its attractive Victorian (not Edwardian) facade, the Royal Marsden has the most up-to-date, purpose-built facilities in the country for treating cancer.

Only ten days ago we opened a major new development of wards and operating theatres. In addition, we have a unique on-site link with our scientific colleagues in the Institute of Cancer Research.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH KILNER BROWN,
174 Defoe House, Barbican, EC2.

From Sir Ralph Kilner Brown

Sir, Your leader on the Tomlinson report refers to 5,000 residents in the City of London. This figure is not only inaccurate (the true figure for five days out of seven is at least twice that) but fails to take into account the relevant population within the catchment area over a 24-hour span.

There may be 250,000 who spend their working hours within the catchment area of St Bartholomew's Hospital. All those who are admitted during the day for treatment, whether casually or long-term, and who live outside the City or Islington or Holborn, presumably go into the category of those who occupy beds not properly the responsibility of that hospital. Such a statistical approach is ridiculous.

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From Miss Helen Long

Sir, In the face of the laudable Khmer Rouge violation of the UN peace agreement ("Khmer Rouge blabs bridges in defiant and UN show", report, October 16), when is the international community going to stop appeasing the Khmer Rouge?

I fail to understand the logic of the UN Security Council's resolution, adopted on October 13, that allows the Khmer Rouge to remove some 100,000 people — who are effectively trapped within its zones — from the electoral process, while leaving Pol Pot's candidates free to contest seats in the rest of the country.

It is a travesty that the Khmer Rouge has been written into the peace plan, given its previous genocidal record.

The UN has invested £1.17 billion in the peace effort, but if the five permanent members of the Security Council continue to tolerate the Khmer Rouge's determination to derail the process, that money will have been spent in vain. As a first step, the Security Council must impose economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge and seal the Thailand-Cambodia border. This winter may be the last opportunity for the world to save Cambodia from a return to the genocide of the 1970s.

The process of reconciliation deserves greater circumspection from those who should know better.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN LONG (Chair),
Action Cambodia,
Flat 3, 192 Grafton Road, NW5.
October 22.

From Mr Simon Sweeney

Sir, Your leading article of October 23, "We are all Berliners now", justifiably refers to German lack of diplomacy in planning to celebrate the V2 launch. However, it is absurd to claim that such plans exceeded Britain's lack of tact in erecting a memorial to "Bomber" Harris. The V2 celebration did not take place officially. The Harris memorial exists, and presumably will do so for a very long time.

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Yours faithfully,
S. Y. SWEENEY,
3 Glebe Cottages,
Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Jeffrey Gordon

Sir, Lord Goddard did not retire as Lord Chief Justice in 1949 as Sir Frederick Lawton states ("The bench is not a men's club", Law, October 20); it was in 1958 when Lord Parker took over.

As to lady barristers practising when the esteemed Fred went on the bench in 1961, although he claims not to remember others at the Bar he has apparently forgotten that Margaret Thatcher was a pupil in his chambers for part of that period.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY GORDON,
Jeffrey Gordon & Co (solicitors),
172 Lavender Hill, SW11.

From Mrs Janet Pitt-Lewis

Sir, Sir Frederick Lawton considers that barristers who served in the 1939-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Salvaging the wreckage from hospital closure proposals

replace the hospitals it has closed.

"The root of the problem is not inadequate demand, but inadequate resources. By creating an internal market and then underfunding the purchasing arm, the government has engineered a situation whereby centres of excellence have little chance of survival.

Tomlinson recognises this reality, but his recommendations should be seen as an exercise in damage limitation. To claim that they will improve standards of health care in London is dangerous nonsense.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL JONES,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
Hammersmith Hospital,
Du Cane Road, W12.
October 25.

From Professor Peter Braude

Successful clinical research is not fostered in isolation. It requires the interaction of many disciplines, especially with basic non-clinical scientists such as biochemists, molecular biologists, physicists and the like, who are to be found on the teaching and research staff of medical schools and large university departments.

Residence to a move of research units and academics out of a teaching centre such as London to district general hospitals arises because the critical mass of clinicians and scientists will need to work together to spark off ideas and with the expertise to follow them through, would be difficult to create there.

Not all doctors are up in arms at Tomlinson. I welcome the proposal that Guy's once again merges with its progenitor hospital, St Thomas'. For obstetrics and gynaecology, a merger will improve and ease the teaching of medical students within our joint United Medical and Dental School (successfully merged for the past ten years) and promote provision of better obstetric and women's health-care facilities for the residents of south and central London.

It will also foster strongly our objective to improve research in obstetrics and gynaecology, which will benefit women nationally.

Yours etc,
PETER BRAUDE,
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.
October 25.

From Dr Ian E. Smith and Dr Trevor J. Powles

Sir, Your support for Tomlinson's recommendation that the "Edwardian" Royal Marsden cancer hospital should move to "modern facilities" at the Charing Cross Hospital in Hammersmith is based on a false premise. Behind its attractive Victorian (not Edwardian) facade, the Royal Marsden has the most up-to-date, purpose-built facilities in the country for treating cancer.

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COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE

October 24: The Duke of Kent, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, this morning left Heathrow Airport, London for Egypt in order to attend Services of Remembrance in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. Captain the Hon Tom Coke is in attendance.

October 25: The Duke of Kent this evening arrived at Heathrow Airport from El Alamein, Egypt. Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 27: The Queen held an audience by Buckingham Palace this morning. Captain Julian Giles was received by Her Majesty on the occasion of his appointment as Temporary Equerry to The Queen.

Her Excellency Dr Patricia Rodgers was received in Farewell Audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon Her Excellency relinquishing her appointment as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in London.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Sheffield Midland Station this morning and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for South Yorkshire (Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Neill). His Royal Highness visited the Health and Safety Executive and opened the new Roberts Laboratory.

The Duke of Edinburgh then visited British Steel Stainless Trade Centre. His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Tinsley Park Open Cast Site and planted a tree to mark the Millennium of the Sizewell. The Duke of Edinburgh later visited the Stockbridge Engineering Steel and started the new furnace.

This evening His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, attended a dinner at Canfield Hall. Wing Commander Christopher Moran, RAF, was in attendance. October 27: The Prince Edward this morning visited the National Film and Television School at Beaconsfield. His Royal Highness was received by Mr John Paterson (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire). Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

October 27: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, today attended the Annual Public Meeting at the International Convention Centre Birmingham. Her Royal Highness afterwards presented new Colours to the West Midlands Fire Brigade at Centenary Square, International Convention Centre.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 27: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received Captain Julian Giles as his Equerry on the occasion of his appointment to The Queen's Personal Staff.

Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, at St James's Palace. His Royal Highness subsequently presided at a meeting of the Arts Studies Monitoring Group at St James's Palace.

This evening The Prince of Wales, Patron, Royal Opera House, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, attended the Gala Performance of *Otello* at the Royal Opera House, London WC2.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 27: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Northern Ireland and was received by the Minister of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Michael Mates). His Royal Highness presented a new Standard to No 230 Squadron and subsequently opened the new Operations Centre at Royal Air Force Aldergrove.

Afterwards The Duke of Gloucester, Patron Council for Education in World Citizenship, visited Brindley Academy, Lurgan Road, Brindley and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for County Down (Colonel William Brownlow).

Later His Royal Highness opened the Banbridge Enterprise Centre, Scarva Road Industrial Estate, Banbridge. Major Nicholas Barnes was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Baby Life Support Systems, this evening attended a Private View of a Photographic Exhibition at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7.

Miss Suzanne Marland was in attendance.

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

Mr Peter Barron, chairman, 57; Sir Alfred Marshal Sir Harry Broadbent, 87; Mr Tony Curtis, 74; and Mark, a son, James William George, a brother for Lucy Carrington, 73.

Mr Alan Broadbent, 60, at the Harewood Hospital, Wellington, and Roberta, a son, 10; and Valerie, a daughter, 7.

Mr Michael Broadbent, 77; Lord Hesketh, 39; Mr Mark James, golfer, 39; Lord Killearn, 73; Miss Clio Lane, singer, 65; the Earl of Lansdowne, 74; Miss Jan Palfrey, actress, 63; Sir Hugh Tet, former chairman, Esso Petroleum Company, 86.

Gilbert Lecture

Her Hilmar Kopper of Deutsche Bank AG delivered the 1992 Gilbert lecture at King's College, London yesterday, at the invitation of King's College, London and the Chartered Institute of Bankers. Her Kopper's lecture was entitled "German banks: what role do they really play?" Lord Alexander of Gilmerton, a former chairman of the Royal Economic Society, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will open the Duchess of Kent House, Dellwood Hospital, Reading, at 11.00.

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Honours shared: David Gower, the cricketer, with his wife, Thorunn, left, shows off the OBE he received at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Clive Lloyd, the former West Indian captain, with his wife, Wavenny, received a CBE

Royal engagements

The Queen, as Patron of Queen Mary and Westfield College, will open the new arts building and library extension at 3.15.

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and trustee, will attend the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme general council at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, at 10.50. Prince Edward, as trustee, will also attend.

The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will attend an education conference at Salford College of Further Education at 11.00; will inaugurate his Institute of Architecture at 1.30; and will attend the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme general council at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, at 10.50. Prince Edward, as trustee, will also attend.

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OBITUARIES

Luis Rosales Camacho, Spanish poet and critic, died in Madrid on October 24 aged 82. He was born in Granada on May 31, 1910.

Luis Rosales is perhaps, and most unjustly, best known outside Spain for what he is alleged to do — to try to prevent the murder of the poet and playwright Federico García Lorca in Granada on or about August 19, 1936. The poet Luis Cernuda, in exile from Franco's Spain, genuinely believed in this canard, and unfortunately for Rosales, enshrined it in his elegy for Lorca. In fact, and it should be stated at the outset, Rosales risked his own life — he was within an ace of being shot — in trying to save Lorca (a close friend of his) who had taken refuge in the Rosales family house.

Literary Spain has itself long forgiven Rosales. Indeed, for the most part, owing to the extraordinary detective work of Ian Gibson in his *Assassination of Federico García Lorca*, it honours him for his honest, if vain, effort to protect Spain's great poet and martyr to fascism. Nevertheless in some quarters the unjust accusation stuck, and if it did not actually ruin Rosales's life, it often made it into a profoundly sad one.

Rosales was one of a family of six, five brothers and a sister. He was the son of a popular and thriving merchant, Miguel, whose shop was well known in Granada. The father, was a liberal-minded conservative who intensely disliked the Falange founded by José Antonio Primo de Rivera, son of the dictator. But his wife and two of his sons, José and Antonio, became falangists. Luis joined the movement later, but with no great enthusiasm. However,

the whole family gladly concealed Lorca (and other so-called "red") and had nothing whatsoever to do with his brutal murder. Luis was, in fact, expelled from the Falange for his part in the concealment. He was later "fined" — as Lorca was, preposterously, after his murder — and reinstated.

Luis Rosales graduated from the University of Granada before the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, and then went on to Madrid, where he was associated with Lorca and most of the leading Spanish poets and critics. He wrote about Lorca's work, and began to publish his poetry in magazines.

His own poetry, however, did not resemble Lorca's at all, and was in some ways a reaction to it. His collection of 1935, *Abri* ("April"), reflected his concern with the religious and contemplative life, with love, and with his and his group's concern to move Spanish poetry away from the influence of the Baroque Góngora so that of Garcilaso, the 16th-century bucolic Petrarchan poet. Soon afterwards, a journal, *Garcilaso*, was devoted to this project which eventually aimed to create a Catholic humanism which would "understand men, all men, in depth".

Rosales and his colleagues Luis Felipe Vivas (with whom he collaborated in play) and the Panero brothers, Leopoldo and Juan, are sometimes, with others, known as the "Generation of 1936", in imitation of the much more spectacular "Generation of 1927", which included one of the most amazing clusters of poetic genius in all 20th-century poetry: Lorca, Guillén, Prados, Almoguera, Cernuda, Alberti, Salinas, Aleixandre, Damaso Alonso, and



others scarcely less gifted. At that time, and before the war actually broke out, Spanish poetry, in the persons of several younger men, including Rosales, quite literally lost its nerve. Indeed, it has not yet quite recovered it. It was inevitable; and of the generation of 1927 only Aleixandre, because of his poor

health, and Alonso, remained in Spain.

There is no question of Rosales being, in any meaningful literary sense, a real link between this generation of 1927 and a later one. Of his own generation of poets only Dionisio Ridruejo, once called the "Spanish Goebbels" changed his

mind about Franco, defied him, and was imprisoned by him. Rosales, essentially non-political, found the Franco regime "broadly acceptable" (as a critic put it), and prospered under it without in any way disgracing himself.

He became highly respected as an academic, and for the undoubted skill of his poetry. However, this never quite recovered from the demands of Franco's literary censors. Rosales was received and comforted by Aleixandre, and he was deeply in sympathy with the famous oublieux *Hijos de la ira* (1944). "Children of Anger" of Alonso: this was a book of poems which protested against the meaninglessness of everything without, of course, specifying Franco or his henchmen. Yet when one compares these attempts at rehumanising literature with the energetic hostility of the Italian "hermetic" poets (Montale, Ungaretti, Quasimodo) to fascism, the Spanish verse of Rosales and his contemporaries seems somewhat pallid and technical.

None the less, it was a dignified poetry and Rosales's *La casa encendida* (1949, "The Burning House"), in particular, was an admired collection, as were his collected poems, issued in 1981 after Franco's death.

The best of his many critical books is his illuminating study of the poet who influenced him most fruitfully: Antonio Machado (1963). Also of great value is his learned *El sentimiento del desengaño en la poesía barroca* (1966, "The Sense of Disillusionment in Baroque Poetry"). His work and achievement will last, and if he ends up as a poet with the sort of reputation enjoyed by, say, the skilful Robert Bridges in England, then this is tribute enough.

APPRECIATION

Lord Franks



YOUR admirably frank obituary of Lord Franks (October 17) suggested that, when I went to see him in Oxford in July 1982 to convey the Prime Minister's request to him to chair the Committee of Privy Counsellors who were to inquire into the events leading up to the Argentine invasion of the Falklands, my purpose was to see whether his faculties were still in good order. Indeed, it was not so: I had recently seen something of him, and had no doubts on that score. I went to see him because the Prime Minister was convinced (as was I) that he would be the ideal choice for the chairmanship of the inquiry, and we feared that he might, at 77, be a little reluctant to take it on. My purpose in going to see him was to deal face to face with the questions he was bound to want to ask, and to be as persuasive as I could in prevailing upon him to take it on.

I simply asked whether I could come and see him: I did not tell him what I was coming to say. When I arrived, the Prime Minister's request, clearly came as no surprise to him: he had worked out for himself the probable reason for my visit. His questions were therefore well prepared and predictably penetrating: if I had had any doubts about his "marbles" before I went, our conversation would have dispelled them. It was also clear that he was minded to agree: he had the trumpet and the battle afar off, though he asked for twenty-four hours in which to reflect before communicating his formal answer.

My first encounter with Oliver Franks was when he was a member of the Radcliffe Committee on the Working of the Monetary System, when I quickly became familiar with his formidable capacity for acquiring, absorbing, marshalling, retaining and summarising complicated facts and arguments. This would appear from the way in which, at the end of a long session of oral evidence, he would sum up in his own words what the witness had been trying, often much less articulately, to say.

At that time he was the chairman of Lloyds Bank, and as such a member of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers. When the representatives of that committee came to give oral evidence to

the Radcliffe Committee Oliver Franks said that he would take no part in the process of putting questions to the witnesses. He was accordingly unworriedly silent, until a moment came when, in response to a series of questions from the economist members of the committee, his banker colleagues seemed to be on the point of saying that raising the bank rate tended to aggravate inflation. Unable to remain silent any longer, Oliver Franks intervened to say, very mildly: "This argument is going rather faster than I can follow." The concept of an argument that could go too fast for Oliver Franks to follow was so inherently implausible that the bankers saw the warning signal and drew back from the brink of the pit.

Your notice recalled his reputation for coldness. He was indeed, in his middle years, an austere and seemingly remote person, and, working with him as secretary of the Radcliffe Committee and later, in the middle 1960s, as secretary of his committee on the pay of the higher civil service, I was certainly much in awe of him. In his later years either he mellowed or I was less overawed, or perhaps a little of both: however that might be, he came to be an easy, comfortable and stimulating companion and friend.

Oliver Franks was one of that rare, perhaps now extinct, breed of outstanding public servants who were sons of clergymen, who seemed destined for a distinguished academic career until the onset of war brought with it the opportunity to exercise their skills and talents on a wider scene, but for whom the university remained a spiritual (and in his case also an actual) home. I fear that you may well be right in thinking that we shall not see his like again.

Lord Armstrong



Dr Adelino da Palma Carlos, former prime minister of Portugal, died in Lisbon on October 25 aged 87. He was born in Faro on March 3, 1905.

ADELINO da Palma Carlos was briefly prime minister of Portugal after the bloodless coup of April 25, 1974. This overthrew the dictatorship of Dr Marcelo Caetano which had, together with his predecessor under Dr António de Oliveira Salazar ruled Portugal for more than forty years. General Spínola, the coup's driving force and the country's first president in the wake of it, appointed Palma Carlos as his first prime minister in a provisional government and promised liberal reforms.

But Palma Carlos, an independent republican, like many of his socialist and communist colleagues in the new government, found Spínola's approach to reform far too cautious for his taste. Arguments arose over the delay in preparing legislation on such subjects as the trade unions, the right to strike and freedom for Portugal's overseas territories. On July 10,

1974, Palma Carlos and four of his ministers resigned.

Palma Carlos had been a highly respected lawyer during the years of dictatorship in Portugal and had defended many well-known opponents of the Salazar regime. He was one of the old guard, with affinities with the men who had originally attempted to set up the first Republic in Portugal after the assassination, in 1908, of King Carlos and his heir Luis Felipe, and the subsequent bloodless overthrow, in 1910, of Portugal's last king, Manoel II.

While still a law student at Lisbon University, he helped, in 1923, to organise the Liga da Mocidade Republicana — a student organisation aimed at combating the instability and chaos that was threatening the very existence of the republic. Their efforts were in vain. In 1926 the army deposed the government in a bloodless coup and two years later Salazar became finance minister. In 1932 he became prime minister with dictatorial powers, a post he retained until 1968 when Caetano succeeded him.

During these years Palma Carlos helped opposed the regime, including the generals who led a revolt on May 28, 1926, and such men as Norton de Matos, Vasco da Gama Fernandes and Joao Soares, father of Portugal's present president Mario Soares.

His activities cost him dearly. In 1927 he was removed from a post he held at the Institute of Criminology and in 1935 was prevented from taking exams to join the Law Faculty at Lisbon University.

In the event, when the chance came for political power after the Portuguese armed forces overthrew the dictatorship in 1974, Palma Carlos resigned after only 56 days as prime minister. Besides wanting elections and a provisional constitution, he opposed the granting of independence to Portugal's African territories unless elections were also held there.

He continued to be active in politics, however. Between 1980 and 1986 he was a member of the consulting committee for the Democratic Renewal Party founded by President Ramalho Eanes.

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THE MACMILLAN NURSE APPEAL

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HOTEL MAINTENANCE

THE MACMILLAN NURSE APPEAL

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SELF-CATERING

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ALL TICKETS Eng v 5th Africa

FURTHER INFORMATION

NEWS

Major face to face with rebels

■ John Major will attempt to save his Maastricht strategy — and his own position — in a series of face to face meetings with rebel backbench MPs. He has also asked to address the key backbench 1922 committee when it meets tomorrow night.

■ Mr Major spent much of yesterday closed with advisers in an attempt to measure the strength of the Tory forces ranged against him. He has to decide between a full-scale confrontation and a compromise..... Pages 1, 2, 16, 17

Officials blamed for coal debacle

Senior civil servants have paid the price for last week's debacle over pit closures. Robert Priddle, the deputy secretary in charge of energy policy at the trade and industry department, has been moved to a new post..... Pages 1, 7

Danish opt-outs

Denmark's Conservative-Liberal minority government is due to present parliament today with a draft "national compromise" for reversing the Danes' rejection of the Maastricht treaty. It calls for special protocols allowing Denmark to opt out of plans for joint EC currency, defence, citizenship and law enforcement..... Page 2

Orkney failure

Child care and social workers failed to keep an open mind when investigating allegations of organised abuse in Orkney, a critical report by Lord Clyde concludes. They acted quickly and irrationally and did not consider an alternative to taking the children into care..... Page 3

Surgical success

Edmonton police sergeant Bob Windrow, who lost a hand after being attacked with a samurai sword, has an excellent chance of a good recovery, according to the consultant plastic surgeon who helped sew the hand back on in an 11-hour operation. Page 4

Missile mark-up

Government researchers are about to study the cost-effectiveness of buying or developing an anti-ballistic missile system to counter threats from any potentially hostile Third World countries within 1,874 miles of Britain. Such a programme would add several billion pounds to the overstretched defence budget..... Page 6

Top tycoon with the lovable touch

A former dispatch rider who started a delivery company he sold for £50 million has been named Britain's most romantic tycoon by Mills & Boon, publisher of heart-throb novels. Richard Gabriel feels flattered, and his girl friend confirmed his ideal image. "He took me to Venice for a long weekend; he's taking me to Paris in his private jet"..... Page 7



Sidelined: the Ukrainian liner *Belorussia* lies on its side at Singapore after its dry dock tilted as water was being drained out

BUSINESS

Pit spectators: Private mining groups and miners are eyeing the 31 collieries scheduled for closure by British Coal. Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's former commercial director, is heading a consortium to try to lease four pits in South Yorkshire..... Page 21

CBI: British manufacturing confidence has been boosted by what seems the brightest outlook for exports since 1987..... Page 21

German slowdown: Western Germany's economy will grow by 0.5 per cent next year, according to a report by five leading economic research institutes. The gloomy outlook would scupper the government's plans to cut the budget deficit..... Page 15

HOMES: Female bonding: Every woman knows that dressing to pass muster with women friends is far more subtle, demanding and rewarding than dressing to please a man — easy by comparison..... Page 15

Unhappy families: What happens when a marriage breaks up but the family home will not sell? A report on the "caged couples"..... Page 33

SPORT

Boxing: Jose Sulaiman, president of the World Boxing Council, said that the winner of the bout next month between Evander Holyfield, world heavyweight champion, and Riddick Bowe, must not defend against anyone other than the winner of the final eliminator between Lennox Lewis of Britain and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock of Canada in London on Saturday..... Page 40

Cricket: The Marylebone Cricket Club has asked members intent on holding a costly extraordinary general meeting to discuss a motion of no confidence in England's committee to reconsider. More than 200 names were collected after Jack Russell and David Gower, who left out of the touring party to India and Sri Lanka..... Page 40

A nervous Boris Yeltsin has moved to ban a coalition of left and right-wing activists who have vowed to remove him from power..... Page 12

ENTERTAINMENT

Paneling the hall: The Rugby Football Union, for long a mute apesee of apartheid, is worried, with good reason, that rugby may again be the black sheep. Page 14

Opera: Why are new British operas not reaching the mainstream after their premieres?..... Page 29

Reviews: Theatre: Wedekind's two Lulu plays (translated by Edward Bond and Elisabeth Pable) at the Lilian Baylis Theatre..... Page 30

Rock: Arachnid/Rave duo The Orb at the Brixton Academy..... Page 30

Concerts: RPO/Ashkenazy: Shostakovich Symphony No 10 gets a tremendous performance at the Festival Hall..... Page 30

Opinion: Peter Barnard questions the BBC's right to a 24-hour news service..... Page 29

Film: David Robinson reports from the Geneva Film Festival. Page 31

MONTY'S CURSE?

Mirror, mirror: When Harold Lamb heard that David Montgomery had been made chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, his thoughts turned to Gothic horror stories. He was reminded of those in which the heir inherits a great estate but has to contend with the curse which has destroyed his predecessors..... Page 32

Shopped out: As King Wenceslas slips on his fury boots and prepares to saunter through the snow, advertising men are slipping on their festive flak jackets in preparation for the seasonal attack from truculent parents..... Page 32

Simon Jenkins: John Major had his referendum on Maastricht on Monday night. It was rather a good one. The question was not a crude yes or no. It was framed to reflect shades of opinion, including confidence in the government generally. The result is awaited, but "exit polls" suggest a clear outcome. The British people might one day ratify the treaty, but not yet and not until they are convinced that they must..... Page 16

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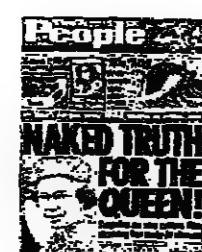
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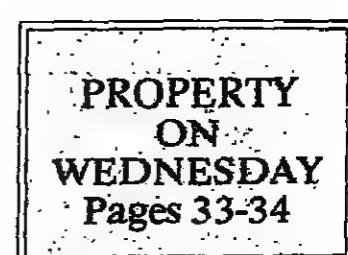
The case for
selling off
The People

**ARTS 29-31**

New opera: a
call for stronger
leadership

**SPORT 36-40**

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Souness for
five matches



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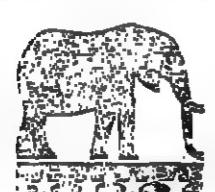
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BUSINESS TODAY

Smaller quoted
companies have been
thrown a lifeline by the
Seats system, six years
after October 27's Big
Bang Page 25

FATE SEALED

David James says Dan-
Air's fate was sealed
when banks reined in
the airline's borrowing
limits. Page 21

BUSH BOOST

Republican hopes for a
George Bush victory
were boosted by better
than expected GDP
growth Page 23

GOOD SHOW

Blenheim Group
profits grew after an
increase in attendances
at its exhibitions and
shows Tempus, page 24

THE POUND

	US dollar
1.5755 (-0.0130)	German mark
2.4140 (-0.0231)	Exchange index
76.6 (-0.7)	Bank of England official close (4pm)
	STOCK MARKET
FT 30 share	1978.5 (+2.3)
FT-SE 100	2669.8 (+8.2)
New York Dow Jones	3240.33 (-3.78)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avg	17185.26 (+17.93)
	INTEREST RATES
London: Bank Base: 8%	New York:
3-month Interbank: 7% - 7.5%	8.5% - 8.75%
3-month eligible bills: 7.5% - 8%	8.5% - 8.75%
US: Prime rate: 6%	8% - 8.25%
Federal Funds: 3%	8% - 8.25%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.95 - 2.98%	3.5% - 3.75%
30-year bonds: 95% - 95.5%	95.5% - 95.75%
	CURRENCIES
London: Bank Base: 8%	New York:
1.5755 (-0.0130)	8.5% - 8.75%
German mark	8.5% - 8.75%
2.4140 (-0.0231)	8.5% - 8.75%
Exchange index	8.5% - 8.75%
76.6 (-0.7)	8.5% - 8.75%
Bank of England official close (4pm)	8.5% - 8.75%
	GOLD
London Fixing:	New York:
AM \$33.10 PM \$33.25	8.5% - 8.75%
Close \$33.00 - \$33.40	8.5% - 8.75%
\$214.25 - \$214.75	8.5% - 8.75%
New York:	8.5% - 8.75%
Comex \$338.75 - \$339.25*	8.5% - 8.75%
	NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Nov)	\$19.80/bbl (\$19.90)
	RETAIL PRICES
RPI: 139.4 September (1987 = 100)	
* Denotes midday trading price	

CBI points to first benefit of leaving ERM

Manufacturers expect surge in export orders

By ROSS TIERMAN

BRITISH manufacturers expect a strong surge in export orders arising from the withdrawal of sterling from the exchange-rate mechanism, but expect tougher outlook at home, says the CBI.

The sharpest rise in optimism on exports since 1987, recorded by the CBI's quarterly *Industrial Trends* survey, was the first sign that the government's enforced change of economic direction has started to benefit the economy.

The survey, covering companies responsible for half of Britain's manufactured exports, found 35 per cent of firms were more optimistic about overseas sales prospects in the coming year. Only 15 per cent thought exporting would be harder, even though

Manufacturing confidence has been boosted by the brightest outlook for exports since 1987

growth has slowed or stalled in many overseas markets. Over the next four months, the firms expect a rise in exports to almost compensate for further falls in home orders. The survey was published as the pound fell to its lowest value since the trade-weighted index was created in 1975.

Sir David Lee, chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said he believed sales opportunities had improved for British companies in countries with currencies

linked to the American dollar. In Europe, with an exchange rate of DM2.40 to the pound, he said: "We ought to be capable of taking market share, provided we don't throw it away again with increased costs."

The survey also provided evidence that inflation poses no danger at present. During the past quarter, more firms cut prices than at any time since the 1950s, and the downward trend is set to continue. But the findings, from 1,308 companies, also confirmed that the recession has caused grave damage to business confidence.

The fall in industrial output, which has continued unchecked for 11 quarters, appears to have accelerated in the latest four months after moderating during spring and summer.

That has led to an increased rate of labour-shedding. An additional 75,000 manufacturing jobs are likely to go in the next three months, the CBI said.

If it is right, the overall rate of job losses in the British economy, currently running at 30,000 a month, may rise.

Training and research spending has held up, but the survey showed investment is set to fall for the fourth year running. Sir David called for a further cut in interest rates because of a "continued lack of confidence both among business and consumers."

He said the government must now provide a "clear and coherent explanation of its economic strategy," including a commitment to maintain public spending on capital programmes while bearing down on current spending.

The survey was completed on October 14, before the latest one-point fall in base rates.

Expectations of lower German interest rates were again revived by Ottmar Issing, a Bundesbank director, who suggested scope for easing. But Wilhelm Gaddum, a fellow director, later rejected this line, saying it was "comfortable" with present conditions.

Pound falls to record low on trade-weighted index

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER being stuck at its record low on its trade-weighted index as poor sentiment for the currency worsened over uncertainties on the political and economic fronts.

Market talk of a two-point cut in base rates pushed sterling as low as DM2.4000 and \$1.5650 early yesterday before short-covering helped it claw back some of its losses by the official 4pm London close.

It ended at DM2.4140, down more than two and a quarter pence from Monday, and more than a cent and a quarter lower at \$1.5753. On a trade-weighted basis it finished 0.7 down at 78.6,

after being stuck at its record low of 78.4 much of the day.

Dealers saw no real floor for the pound and predict it may fall further, given the government's focus on growth. Since leaving the exchange-rate mechanism last month, sterling has depreciated about 13 per cent against the mark and 17 per cent against the dollar.

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Bridport maintains dividend

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRIDPORT-GUNDRY, the nets and rope maker, held the fall in pre-tax profits at £34,000, to £751,000, in the year to end-July. Last time, the company benefited from sales of £5 million-worth of camouflage netting during the Gulf war. A final dividend of 2.6p maintains the total payout at 4.1p.

Patrick Darley, chairman, said the company had withdrawn from the American fishing industry and rationalised net-making in Britain. It expects to cut the proportion of sales to the fishing sector from more than 40 per cent to less than 15 per cent by the end of this financial year. The group is concentrating on sutures, aviation and defence. Mr Darley said a high percentage of the company's products were exported, and lower exchange rates were welcome.

Historically, the first half of the year was poor, he said, and this trend would be accentuated by restructuring, but the benefits would flow through into the second half and be reflected in results for the year as a whole.

Competition will force more cuts at banks



Tough times: Hilmar Kopper, who says there must be no taboos in banking

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN banks will continue to shed staff and close branches as competition in the financial markets increases, according to the head of Deutsche Bank one of Europe's most powerful banks.

Hilmar Kopper, Deutsche's chairman, also attacked his own and other governments for undermining international bank capital regulations. He blamed the pressure of these regulations for an international credit crunch.

Hilmar Kopper was giving the annual Gilbert Lecture at King's College, London last night. He said that deregulation and international harmonisation would increase competition among banks. "More competition and lower margins are making intensive cost management imperative. There must be no taboos, either in branch banking or staffing. The rapid expansion of the last decade caused cost aspects to be sidelined and many banks to put on weight," he said.

He added that the changes would put increasing pressure on the 10,000 banks in Europe, but said that niches for smaller banks would continue to exist.

Like other bankers and financiers, he believes that there is a growing credit crunch facing borrowers, as banks compete for low risk lending and ignore higher risk proposals. He said that in the past four years American banks have increased government securities holdings by \$235 billion, but cut commercial lending by \$20 billion.

"Competition for the good risk is in full swing. Business volume is taking a back seat to the prudent calculation of earnings and risk," Herr Kopper said.

He criticised countries, including Germany, which help banks to meet capital requirements. "In Germany, the regional banks can draw on the political culture of the British parliamentary system, the British way of life and the London financial centre would be a torso," he said.

being helped with their problems through special state assistance.

"I regard equality of treatment and procurement of capital as essential. Without progress here, there will ultimately be no competition in the proper sense of the free market economy," he said.

Herr Kopper tried to play down the common perception of the power of the German banks. He said that Deutsche Bank's share of the banking market is only 6 per cent, smaller than similar banks in other European countries, and the banks only hold 28 per cent of household savings, and just 0.6 per cent of the equity of non-financial groups. In his speech, he stressed that "the German banks have influence rather than real power in the economy."

On European developments, Herr Kopper repeated his view that there would be a two-speed approach to monetary union. "I cannot imagine European integration without the United Kingdom. Europe without the political culture of the British parliamentary system, the British way of life and the London financial centre would be a torso," he said.

Director buys AB offshoot

By OUR CITY STAFF

AB Electronic Products, the recession-hit components group in takeover talks with TT Group, a 6.4 per cent shareholder, is selling its Swansea Industrial Components business for £2.74 million.

The loss-making company is being sold to Thomas Roberts, who will resign from AB's board once the deal is complete. The sale is conditional on shareholder approval.

Swansea Industrial Components, which makes electrical wiring harnesses for the computer, automotive, domestic appliance and entertainment industries, made a loss of £1.3 million in the year to end-June, on a turnover of £12.4 million and net assets of £4.3 million. The company employs 600 people and operates from three sites in South Wales. As part of the deal Mr Roberts is buying land in Swansea. AB will use the proceeds to cut debts.

Levercrest shares fall on rescue rights issue

By PHILIP PANGALIS

SHARES in Levercrest tumbled from 39p to 19p after the maker of playground equipment and safety surfaces announced a change in direction as well as hefty losses and a deeply-discounted rescue rights issue.

Leslie and Anne Chier, who founded the company, are making way for new management and raising new capital.

The listed company, floated on the LSE in 1990 at 108p a share, is raising about £1.3 million through a 13-for-4 rights issue, at 10p a share. The issue is underwritten by County NatWest and institutions are understood to have taken up the shares.

The proceeds will go towards rationalisation and to reduce debt. Before the rights issue, the company breached some of its banking covenants, but directors do not anticipate that any further breaches of the borrowing limit will occur.

Mr Chier is to step down as chairman and joint managing director and will become a consultant. His wife will stay on the board, but will resign as joint managing director. Their 65 per cent stake will be diluted to about 21 per cent.

Ian Orrock will become chairman and a 19 per cent shareholder. Levercrest will become a holding company renamed Rouspur and will move to a full listing and seek engineering acquisitions.

The fundraising should enable Levercrest to fulfil its potential," Mr Orrock said.

Levercrest made a pre-tax loss of £755,000 in the 15 month period to end-May, against a restated loss of £364,000 last time. Turnover stood at £5.46 million (£5.52 million). The company suffered through a lack of financial control and a lack of professional management," Mr Orrock added.

The losses are blamed mainly on a lack of demand during the recession and a "substantial" loss caused by the theft of raw materials and finished products from the company's factory. An investigation has been launched by the police and two former employees have been arrested. It is thought about £200,000 worth of stock went missing.

There is a £54,000 exceptional restructuring charge and a loss of 13.6p (5.9p) a share. The dividend is again being passed.

GrandMet and Spanish sherry maker may link

INTERNATIONAL Distillers & Vintners, Grand Metropolitan's wines and spirits division, is considering a link and a share stake in González Byass, producer of Tio Pepe sherry. Gonzalez was formed in 1835 by an alliance of the Gonzalez family, of Jerez in southern Spain, and the English Byass family, who then shipped coal and beer to Australia. The Gonzalez family bought out the 38 per cent Byass stake in 1988 after the company fought off takeovers from Seagram and Guinness.

Gonzalez and GrandMet said they were discussing a closer relationship, which would include an international distribution deal and involve IDV taking an equity stake. No further information would be made available until negotiations had been concluded. The companies have been linked before — Gonzalez used to supply sheries to GrandMet until the 1960s when IDV started producing its own.

Pressac lifts profits

PRESSAC Holdings, the Nottingham manufacturer of automotive, telecommunications and lighting components, reported pre-tax profits of £1.84 million (£1.82 million) in the year to end-July. Turnover was £33.7 million (£34.5 million). Earnings per share were 4.7p (5.38p). An unchanged final dividend of 1.65p a share makes a total for the year of 2.4p (2.36p). About 170 jobs were lost during the year at a cost of £177,000 in redundancy payments. The number of employees has fallen by 670 since 1988.

British Syphon ahead

IMPROVED margins and higher interest receipts helped British Syphon Industries, the industrial group, lift first-half profits 11.3 per cent, despite a 14 per cent decline in sales. Pre-tax profits, at the Cheshire company climbed to £3.02 million in the six months to end-June, on sales down to £19.7 million. The balance sheet remains strong, with net cash of more than £30 million. Interest received rose to £1.5 million (£1.36 million). Earnings were 5.9p a share (5.3p). There is an interim dividend of 2p (nil).

Xerox improves

XEROX Corp said third-quarter net income rose about 11 per cent and credited its document processing strategy and new products for the rise. The company earned \$135 million or \$1.18 a share, after pre-tax capital gains of \$444 million and restructuring provisions of the same amount related to its Crum and Forster insurance unit, on revenues of \$4.47 billion, compared with \$4.28 billion.

TI appoints Edwards

TI Group has confirmed the appointment of Tony Edwards, the director whose departure after just eight months has sparked reports of a boardroom row at Lucas Industries, a fellow engineering group. Mr Edwards will be chief executive of Dowty, the aerospace business that TI took over this year for £500 million. He quit as managing director at Lucas after he was passed over as chief executive.

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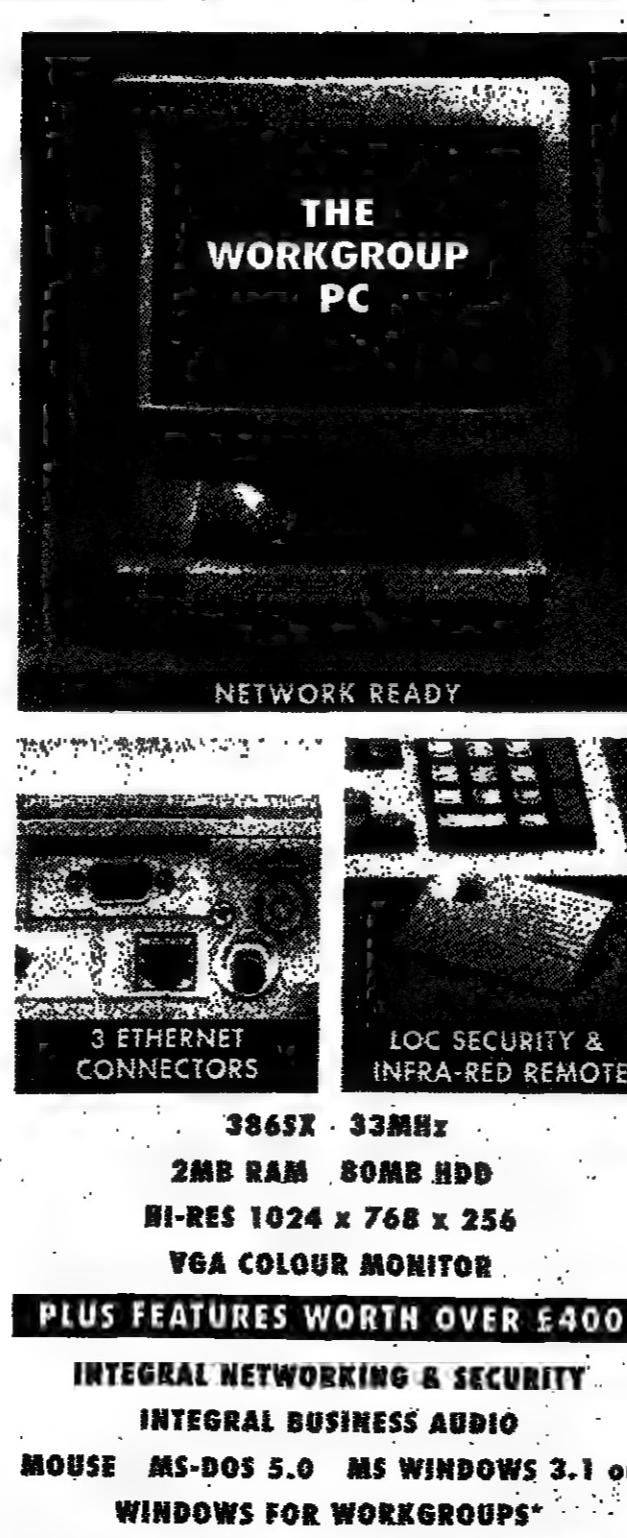
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728/10/92

Surprise rise in US growth leaves Wall Street sceptical

By COLIN NARROUGHEY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISE rise in American growth was quickly hailed by President Bush as "very encouraging", but failed to convince Wall Street that the economy has really started to accelerate.

The commerce department figures on gross domestic product, issued yesterday, were the last important economic data before the election on November 3. They showed that GDP grew an annual 2.7 per cent in the third quarter, up sharply from the 1.5 per cent rise reported in the second quarter.

Importantly for Mr Bush's tarnished reputation on the economic front, the third quarter was much stronger than predicted and took the economy back above the output peak reached in the second quarter of 1990, recovering all the ground lost in the nine-month recession

■ After 18 months of lacklustre recovery the Bush administration sees signs of real revival

that followed. But Mr Bush's attempt to highlight that America had now experienced six consecutive quarters of growth left many economists unconvinced about the durability of the third-quarter pick-up. The pace of the recovery remains the slowest since the Depression of the thirties, with growth rates well below those of earlier rebounds.

Consumer confidence this month fell for the fourth straight month, with increasing concern about jobs, according to the latest Conference Board report. Its closely followed index fell to 53, down 4.3 points from September.

Of crucial importance to the

election battle, the recovery in output has yet to make a dent in unemployment. Last month, the number of people unemployed was still nearly two million higher than before the recession.

Angus Armstrong, economist at Morgan Grenfell, found the GDP data "very hard to believe" and predicted that they would be revised down to below 2 per cent. With real incomes and the savings rate falling, persistent fear of unemployment, and declining confidence, he said it was difficult to see what could sustain growth.

Gwyn Harche, economist at James Capel, said America might now have its head above water, but he doubted whether consumption would pick up much until fiscal boost was introduced early next year. He said growth remained poor by American standards, but the figures showed the skill of the Federal Reserve Board in keeping the economy going, despite the debt overhang.

A strong burst in consumer spending, up an annual 3.4 per cent, boosted GDP growth in the third quarter to its strongest since the 2.9 per cent seen in the first quarter. Consumer spending dipped 0.1 per cent in the second quarter after a first-quarter surge of 5.1 per cent. Spending on durable goods was up 8.6 per cent last quarter, probably a reflection of the improvement in housing fueling through into demand for home appliances and furniture.

The strongest government spending for seven quarters, partly due to Hurricane Andrew, helped, as did higher defence spending. But increased stockbuilding prompted concern, as it could be unwound this quarter, threatening back production. A further fall in net exports was another source of concern.

Barbara Franklin, the commerce secretary, said the growth data showed America was ready to lead the world out of recession. She admitted that third-quarter growth had exceeded her expectations and saw the consumer spending element of the figures indicating an increase in consumer confidence.

Payout risk drives GM shares lower

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALL Street raised the spectre of a further dividend cut at General Motors yesterday after the abrupt departure of Robert Stempel, the chairman, and fresh estimates that 23 per cent of GM's North American workforce is to be shed to cut costs.

GM shares fell \$1.25 to \$33, at which level they yield 4.7 percent. Maryann Keller, author of a book on GM and an analyst with Furman Selz, the stockbroker, said the yield was so high because "the dividend is at risk". GM cut its payout 46 percent 20 months ago, when losses topped \$2 billion. To maintain its annual rate of \$1.60 costs \$1.1 billion. GM third quarter losses of \$845 million are expected tomorrow.

After Mr Stempel's departure, analysts expect a swift and savage programme of cost cutting. Harley Shatkin, industry expert at the University

of California, San Diego, forecasts 85,000 North American shop floor and office job cuts, out of a workforce of 370,000. That is more than 10,000 more than were due to go in the reorganisation plan unveiled by Mr Stempel almost a year ago. Factory closures are likely to be much higher than the 21 announced under the Stempel plan.

The GM board meeting on Monday is expected to seek the resignations of at least six of Mr Stempel's close lieutenants and elect a new chairman. From runner is John Smale, former chairman of Procter & Gamble and head of GM's executive committee. Other candidates include John Smith, GM president, and William Hoglund, the group's financial director.

Though Mr Stempel's retirement package is yet to be settled, pay experts say he will get at least \$1 million a year.

Debt expected to attract buyers

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE £1 billion auction of government debt in privatised companies is expected to be heavily oversubscribed after BT agreed to bid for at least £750 million of its own debt.

Barings, the merchant bank advising the Treasury on the auction, announced yesterday that the sale would go ahead as planned and that the deadline for companies to pre-register their interest is November 3. Only pre-registered companies will receive details of the auction. The final date for bids is the end of November, but the full timetable is expected to be published

next week. Barings announced that it is converting the £1 billion debt into eurobonds to make it competitive with the company's existing debt issues and increase its attraction to international investors. The bonds will be in bearer, rather than registered, form so they will be more easily tradeable and holders will receive interest payments gross.

The Treasury is offering debt with a nominal value of £3.74 billion in 12 privatised electricity companies and BT. All the debt carries high interest coupons and is expected to sell at a large premium to

its face value. Since the auction was announced, the fall in interest rates is estimated to have increased the value of the debt on offer at least 5 per cent. The government will sell £1 billion of the debt to the highest bidders. The remaining holdings are expected to be offered in future auctions.

The electricity companies' debt will be offered only to the borrowers, but the auction of BT's debt will also be open to banks, brokers and institutions. BT has agreed to bid at least £750 million for its own debt, with a face value of about £600 million.

Capital adequacy tests regulators

By A CORRESPONDENT

GLOBAL capital adequacy standards for banks and investment firms are provoking a thorny debate among international securities regulators, leading market supervisors said yesterday.

Opening the annual conference of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, said he expected capital adequacy to be a tough issue. Commission members have been debating how to set common capital standards for banks and securi-

ties firms for three years. They are hoping for an agreement with world banking regulators at the Basle Committee of banking supervisors. "This is a difficult exercise, but it is one of profound importance," Mr Large said.

He said banking and securities activities were becoming more and more co-ordinated standards more important.

Topics considered at the four-day London meeting will include market transparency, investor compensation and self-regulation.



Large: difficult exercise

German slowdown forecast grows louder

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE west German economy will grow by only 0.5 per cent next year, according to the autumn report by the country's five leading economic research institutes. The slowdown in economic activity would affect government revenues during the next few years and scupper plans to cut the budget deficit, despite higher taxes and social contributions.

The gloomy outlook for the German economy comes as businesses are openly talking about recession, although the institutes' report refers merely to an economic downturn. It is also sceptical about the benefits of further tax increases to help finance unification, following a recent suggestion by Chancellor Helmut Kohl that he favours a tax rise from 1995 onwards.

The institutes forecast pan-German growth of 1 per cent next year. Pan-

German inflation will this year peak at 5 percent and fall to 4.5 percent next year. The institutes appear especially concerned about prospects for the east German economy. At the time of reunification, it was thought that it would take east Germany 15 years to catch up with the west at an average annual growth rate of 10 per cent. This year, the eastern German economy grew at only half that rate, and the institutes forecast that next year's figure will be no higher than 7 per cent. This year, about two-thirds of eastern Germany's gross national product is accounted for by transfers from the west, but that is expected to fall to about 50 per cent of GNP next year.

Heiner Flassbeck, head of economics at the DIW institute in Berlin, one of the five to help compile the report, gave a warning yesterday that wage rises should be held below 4 per cent in order to avoid another rise in inflation. The institutes also advised the Bundesbank to relax

monetary policy marginally by increasing the target range for expansion in the money supply. The present range for growth in M3, a measure of broad money supply, should rise from between 3.5 and 5.5 per cent to a central rate of about 7 per cent. This would allow for an inflation rate of about 3 per cent.

The report denied that a 7 per cent growth rate of M3 would involve "giving up a stability-oriented monetary policy. Rather we should temporarily make allowances for the strong administratively determined price increases in east Germany". In September, M3 was up an 9.1 per cent on an annualised basis.

Meanwhile, Otmar Issing, a Bundesbank director, said on German television that the Bundesbank had "room to manoeuvre" in its money market operations, indicating a possible easing of monetary policy.

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Looking for recovery: Roger Gibbs of Wellcome Trust believes UK stocks are the best long-term investment

Wellcome Trust banks on equities

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Wellcome Trust, one of the largest investors in Britain, is to boost its exposure to equities in anticipation of economic recovery.

Roger Gibbs, chairman of Wellcome Trust, said: "I'd be surprised if we don't see UK interest rates of 6 per cent by next summer. Economic recovery will come and we think equities will be the best long-term investment."

The medical charity netted £2.6 billion by selling a 33.5 per cent stake in Wellcome plc in an international share offer in July. It has a total portfolio worth £6 billion, including its remaining 40 per cent stake in Wellcome. About 80 per cent is invested in British and foreign equities but Mr Gibbs said the trust planned to increase this to 90 per cent in the long term.

The trust reduced its stake in Wellcome, a low-yielding stock, to invest in higher yielding shares. Coming up to the share sale we decided to have a substantial part of our investment in fixed interests, waiting for the opportunity to go into equities." He said the trust seized the chance to buy UK stocks at depressed prices in August. "We felt equities were becoming attractive to a long-term investor."

The trust has invested almost £1 billion in the stock market since late August when the FT-SE 100 index hit the lowest close of the year at 2,281. Since August 25, the index has risen more than 16 per cent on expectation of lower interest rates after sterling left the ERM.

Mr Gibbs would not specify the stocks chosen but said: "We're concentrating on quality earners, particularly those with large overseas earnings." Of the £1 billion invested, £500 million went to Barclays de Zoete Wedd Investment Management index fund.

The trust has re-appointed Fleming Investment Management and Henderson Pension Fund Managers, Ballie Gifford & Co, Cargmire Pension Fund Managers, Hamblin Bros Bank, Newton Investment Management, UBS Phillips & Drew Fund Management and Schroder Investment Management are appointed to handle its portfolio.

Dan-Air fate sealed in August

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE fate of Dan-Air was sealed in August, when the banks reined in the company's borrowing limits to match their private assessment of its break-up value, according to David James, chairman of Davies & Newman.

The banks brought in Touche Ross, the accountant, to produce a break-up value estimate and as a consequence cut the company's borrowing ability to £17 million, he said. From then on, as autumn approached when debts would rise, the survival of Davies & Newman, the holding company, hung on an alliance with nothing. Mr James said once it was clear they would receive no return whatever happened, and the only alternative was receivership, he had no choice by law but to safeguard creditors' interests.

The banks had secured loans outstanding of more than £22 million, and trade and other unsecured creditors were owed £4.3 million. All this last sum would have been lost

if the company went into receivership, he said. Davies & Newman had net assets after last year's refinancing of £40 million, but trading losses had cut this to £24 million. It faced this £23 million redundancy bill and £1.6 million would be lost on aircraft sales.

A further £1 million could be expected to flow out from this autumn's trading losses. All this gave the assets being sold a negative value of more than £20 million to BA once the new owner took control, at the earliest at the start of next year. Given the alternative of financial collapse for Davies & Newman, BA "had the company over a barrel" during the talks, he said.

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Blenheim banks on French connection

BLENHEIM Group has always had a faint air of uncertainty hanging over it in the City as one of the few 1980s go-go people stocks that has not yet come to grief. So even the irrepressible Neville Bush, Blenheim's chairman, has had to concede that the past two years have had to be ones of quiet consolidation, in contrast to the previous half-decade of hectic expansion.

The City has had difficulty understanding how a hugely cash-generative vehicle was created by bolting together the previously disorganized and underestimated exhibitions industry. In addition, the acquisition programme has prompted the usual doubts over accounting policies and hefty earn-outs. Meanwhile, huge exhibitions that occur one year and then disappear play havoc with profits flow.

Blenheim's latest full-year figures to end-August, before the company changes its financial year-end to December, contain no real boost from acquisitions and confirm some of those doubts. While turnover is up in Britain and stable in America, profits in both areas are lower. As a result, France is left to make the progress that sent group pre-tax profits up 32 per cent to £37.3 million.

In Britain, the big shows that offer lower margins for Blenheim have continued to perform well but the higher-margin events, such as giftware and jewellery, have been disproportionately hit by recession. In America, the non-recurrence of one big

show accounted for most of the profits fall, while in France, Blenheim benefited from Batimat, a huge construction exhibition where the aisles stretch 75 km, which chipped in £13 million of turnover.

Interest cover remains a comfortable seven times, but shares issued for earlier acquisitions held earnings per share growth to 15 per cent.

Derek Tarrington, at Kleinwort Benson, is plumping for £50 million pre-tax this year, which puts the shares on little more than 14 times 1993 earnings. This is a long way from the stratospheric multiples Blenheim has enjoyed, but scope for progress still looks limited.

Gencor

GENCOR, South Africa's second-largest mining group, paints a refreshingly honest, if not blunt, picture of its prospects and those of South Africa in the year ahead.

Inflation remains stubbornly high at 14.5 per cent, political clouds hang heavy, trading conditions are set to deteriorate for the third consecutive year and another decline in group net earnings is expected.

Hardly the most appealing forerunner to Gencor's London investment road-show on November 26, though investors can derive some comfort that net attributable profit in the year to end-August was only 10 per cent down at R1.26 billion (£260 million) and that the total dividend rises from 43 cents to 45 cents



The calm after the expansion storm: Neville Bush is guiding Blenheim through a period of consolidation

a share, covered 13 times by net cash earnings.

In February, it was Gencor's turn to raise money, and its R2 billion rights issue helped the group end its year with liquid resources of R2.4 billion — one of the stronger balance sheets among the world's resource groups.

Group assets are essentially South African and embrace gold, platinum, coal and a host of industrial interests. Abroad, Gencor holds a con-

trolling stake in the North Sea's Alba oil field; is a significant investor in Trans-Atlantic Holdings, owns Ayrton Metals, the London platinum metals group, and has gold mining interests in Brazil and Australia.

Having trimmed costs and attended to improving profitability, Gencor has to await brighter world conditions before it can expect profits to advance. The shares trade on 9.4 times historic earnings,

backed by 8.5 per cent yield, and on evidence of a stronger South African economy, will serve investors well.

But in the short term, the uncertainty of political developments in South Africa will dog sentiment.

Jupiter has given Mr Licht a £1 million golden hello in addition to an annual salary of £600,000. He has also been granted up to £3 million share options, or 6 per cent of

the share capital. Mr Licht needs to attract funds of at least £400 million just to cover his costs before the golden hello and the options are even considered.

In his first two weeks, he pulled in three new clients and assets of £100 million, but it will undoubtedly be some time before Jupiter sees a clear profit from the acquisition.

Jupiter's interim results meanwhile are redundant of the late 1980s when acquisition accounting was all the rage and made meaningful comparisons impossible.

The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.1 million in the first half of the year, compared with only £3.95 million for the first four months of 1991 before its merger with Tyndall Holdings. Earnings per share were 7.02p, a like-for-like rise of 7.4 per cent.

The increase is startling considering the group has not generated any organic growth and its funds under management remain stuck at £1.3 billion.

Most of the extra profit has come from annual cost savings of £2 million after the closure of Tyndall's expensive computer systems, and its offices in the City.

Despite Jupiter's rate of growth, the shares languish at 10p — a deep discount to the sector. If Jupiter Tyndall makes £8 million this year, the company will stand on a price earnings ratio of less than eight.

They are unlikely to outperform until Mr Licht proves to the City that he is worth his weight in hell.

Recession hits Japan electronics industry

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN TOKYO

JAPANESE electronics companies announced sharply lower half-year earnings yesterday as the industry struggled to cope with a prolonged slump.

Fujitsu, the world's second-largest computer maker, reported its first six-month loss and gave a warning that the "severe business environment" was continuing to worsen in Japan and overseas.

Other companies announced profit declines of between 39.5 per cent and 72 per cent.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., a leading consumer electronics group, said it would cut director salaries by 10 per cent for the rest of the fiscal year because of the severe business outlook.

"The worldwide recession continues to have a major impact on business confidence and on the ordering of large computer systems," a Fujitsu spokesman said.

"And the sluggish semiconductor market has meant a steep drop in prices."

Analysts said the next six months looked brighter because of stronger overseas demand for semiconductors and restructuring by Japanese firms.

Fujitsu said its consolidated net sales were Y19.2 billion (£9.9 million) during the April-September period, the first half of Japan's fiscal year. A year earlier, it posted a profit of Y19.3 billion. Sales rose 6.7 per cent to Y1.69 trillion.

WORLD MARKETS

Hong Kong pulls back 155 points

Hong Kong — Share prices rose sharply, winning back most of a 200-point drop caused by the new crisis in relations between the colony and China.

The benchmark Hang Seng index closed at 6,218.01, up 155.54 points, or 2.57 per cent, as investors appeared to discount the dispute with Peking over increased democracy in the colony and funding for the proposed Hong Kong airport.

Simon Lam, senior analyst at Mansions House Securities, said: "Basically, people are discounting the squabble. Investors believe it can be solved with more senior level negotiations, so they are concentrating more on the fundamental economic outlook, which is good."

Turnover was down substantially from Monday.

□ Wall Street — Buying interest returned after the market was hit in mid-morning by

profit-taking that sapped gains initially won on news of a 2.7 per cent annual growth rate for third-quarter US gross domestic product. Stocks were also hurt early by news of a decline in consumer confidence in October.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.24 at 3,247.35, while in the broad market advancing shares were ahead of declining shares by seven to six.

□ Tokyo — Shares shrugged off a fresh spate of poor corporate earnings results and closed moderately higher in a technical rebound. The Nikkei average was up 173.93 points, or 1.02 per cent, to 17,185.26, with about 150 million shares traded. The broader first section Topix index was up 8.83 points, or 0.69 per cent, to 1,297.53.

□ Frankfurt — Comments from Ottmar Issing, the Bundesbank director, helped German shares claw back a substantial amount of ground lost early in the session. Dealers interpreted Herr Issing's remarks, made shortly before the close of floor trade, to mean the central bank saw room for a further cut in German interest rates. The DAX index limited the loss to 8.72 points to close at 1,533.77.

Turnover was down substantially from Monday.

□ Sydney — Australian shares surrendered to bearish sentiment with the All Ordinaries index ending 14.1 lower at 14,36.6. (Reuters)

RECENT ISSUES

Chubb Security 190 +1
Linx Printing Techs (130) 156 ...
Tepnel Diagnostics (120) 179 +1
Trinity (120) 137 ...
Vardon (45) 49 -2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Capital Industries u/p (78) 1% ...
Greensill n/p (295) 29 -9
Wagon Industrial n/p (335) 18 -6

APPLICATION FOR LISTING BY FIRSTLAND GROUP plc

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This notice has been made to the London Stock Exchange for all the Ordinary Shares of Firstland Group plc issued and to be issued to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that dealings in such shares will commence on 3rd November, 1992.

FIRSTLAND GROUP plc

(incorporated in England with registered No. 1816649)

to be renamed

BRITTON GROUP plc

Gelcast Industrial Limited
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To subdivide each Ordinary Share of 1p into one Ordinary Share of 1p and one Deferred Share of 5p, to cancel each such Deferred Share and to cancel the sum standing to the credit of the Company's share premium account.

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WITH SOMEBODY ELSE**

Dr Scott Barrett, Assistant Professor of Economics London Business School.



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2	Hutch Whamp	Business Serv	
3	Anglia TV	Leisure	
4	Frigidaire	Industrial	
5	Stone Dairy	Industrial	
6	Surge Hedges	Insurance	
7	Entomotech	Transport	
8	Courtaulds	Chem. Plas	
9	Portals	Industrial	
10	Canter	Banks/Div	
11	Eurotherm	Electrical	
12	Shell	Oil/Gas	
13	Sigma Food	Foods	
14	Savoy Hotel	Hotels/Cat	
15	Nat Asst Brk	Banks/Div	
16	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Bldg	
17	Austin Reed	Designers	
18	Rail Elect	Electrical	
19	Steel Barral	Insurance	
20	Gerrard Net	Banks/Div	
21	Marweb	Electricity	
22	Lorwedge Ltd	Insurance	
23	Brimstone	Insurance	
24	WPP	Paper/Print	
25	Church	Drapery/Stns	
26	Brown & Town	Industrial	
27	St Wales	Electricity	
28	T & S Stores	Drapery/Stns	
29	Carson Centre	Leisure	
30	Pykes	Foods	
31	CFSA	Mining	
32	Higgs	Business Serv	
33	Hanson	Industrial	
34	Ellis & Everard	Chem. Plas	
35	Stk Of Ireland	Banks/Div	
36	South West	Water	
37	Time & Tide	Foods	
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39	Br Visa	Industrial	
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269	Abbey Plc		103	-10	165
241	Allied		103	-10	165
242	Amstrad	(B)	103	-10	165
243	Am. New		103	-10	165
222	Am. Tele		103	-10	165
141	Am. Int'l		103	-10	165
121	Am. Steel		103	-10	165
122	Am. Savers		103	-10	165
244	Am. Tele Sat		103	-10	165
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



THEATRE page 30
Susan Lynch may be
"deliriously pretty" as
Lulu, but the plays are
impossible to stage

ARTS

TELEVISION page 31
D.H. Lawrence: was he
a homosexual? Yes,
according to last night's
Without Walls



OPERA: Rodney Milnes, at a British premiere, calls for a co-ordinated national approach to new works

Let's do the show right, right here

The presentation of new opera in Britain tends to be slightly hole-in-the-wall nowadays. Ruled by economic necessity in their huge theatres, the London companies have livened off much of their responsibility for new work to the ghettos of the Garden Venture and the Contemporary Opera Studio — worthy institutions both, but on the sidelines. New work is in danger of being no longer part of mainstream operatic life either in London or the even more financially pressed regions.

In which context the premiere of Nicola LeFanu's new opera, *Blood Wedding*, on Monday was an altogether remarkable event. There is nothing remotely hole-in-the-wall about it: it is a bold, ambitious undertaking, a gesture of defiance against any number of odds.

It was commissioned from LeFanu and her librettist Deborah Levy by the Women's Playhouse Trust, whose moving spirit Jules Wright, also produced and directed. The run of nine performances is budgeted at £357,000, of which around ten per cent comes from such public bodies as the Arts Council, the London Arts Board, the Docklands Development Corporation and the European Arts Festival. The rest has been found through imaginative and determined fund-raising.

The Jacob Street Studios (071-497 9977), on Mill Street, just south of Tower Bridge, are a working film studio transformed into a passable 500-seat opera theatre, with acoustical advice from Ove Arup. Fotini Dimou's spacious set, beautifully lit by Jenny Cane, is impressively spectacular, and her costumes (devised in collaboration with Nicole Farhi) are elegant, chic even, but true to Lorca.

Nor is the Jacob Street run (until November 7) all: there will be performances in Russia and the Ukraine, and the possibility of tours to Australia, Brazil and Germany.

There is something either splendidly or — depending on one's mood — bloody-mindedly uncompromising about the whole enterprise. *Blood Wedding* does not run



Judith Weir: her
Night at the
Chinese Opera
was killed off
with Kent Opera

is less helpful in this respect than standard translations of the play. LeFanu does not set too much store by traditional norms of dramatic structure and pacing. There are moments of dangerous stasis in the two-hour, two-act span of the opera that her music doesn't quite carry; there is, after all, little overt action — bride deserts groom on wedding day to join married lover, groom slays lover. At 35 minutes the first scene of the second act (the wedding party) is simply too long, and the remaining half hour encompasses the dénouement at an

eagerly to meet its audience, despite educational workshop projects attached to the premiere. All concerned assume some knowledge of Lorca's play, if not of Levy's libretto: narrative values and representational action are skimped, and there was much pen-punch work and shuffling through the libretto supplied with the programme on the part of Monday's audience to try and find out who was who and where we were (the libretto's cast list

unvarying andante moderate that tries one's patience sorely. The music will not terrify anyone who can take Tippett with whom LeFanu shares characteristically angular setting of plain English sentences. Her writing can be chatty, and at a dramatic level it is not always apparent why she chooses certain effects, apart from natural exuberance and volatility. She is at her best in lyrical passages: two duets for the Bride and the Lover are the most satisfying moments in the score, alongside some especially expressive writing for flute. There are technically adept mixtures of onstage accordion and simulated-onstage gramophone records of popular music with the pit band that raise problems similar to Tippett's use of "Die liebe Farbe" in *The Knot Garden* — the contrast is too violent, the idioms too disparate. Yet such effects are welcome in a score where, too often, not quite enough is happening.

Jules Wright's staging, the 17-strong Endymion Ensemble under Anne Manson, and the fiercely committed cast of 15 deserve nothing but praise: the premiere had been prepared with single-minded devotion to the cause. Lynne Davies's hugely sympathetic Bride was winningly sung. Quentin Hayes's Lover smouldered resentfully, and the electrifying Cynthia Buchan took three small parts to riveting effect (chain-smoking while rocking a cradle can't be right, though). The crucial role of the Groom's Mother-doubling-Death was forcefully presented by Annetta Sand, and Nicholas Clapton's eerie, penetrating counter-tenor was suitably chilling as the Moon. The final image of the Bride isolated downstage while eight women stood upstage, lit from below as if at the edge of the abyss, reminded one of the performance's provenance.

At the end, while applauding the sheer guts of the whole undertaking, I was left wondering precisely whom this uncompromising opera was for — for the composer's peers, maybe, but surely not for a non-operatic public or, barely, the regular opera audience.



Bride and Groom (Lynne Davies and Philip Sheffield), in Nicola LeFanu's *Blood Wedding*, which is now at Jacob Street Studios

But that is the over-riding problem with so much contemporary opera — Richard Morrison's wise words on Well on this page yesterday should be required reading for all young composers — and it is a problem that won't go away while new works are marginalised.

There are mainstream new operas, but look what happens to them: English National Opera couldn't afford to revive Birthe's *Mask of Orpheus* despite an invitation to do so by the Vienna Festival; the same composer's *Gawain*, a great success at the Garden last

year, will have to wait until 1994 for its first revival — in an ideal world it would be repeated now.

Outside London there are fits and starts. Collaboration between the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and Opera North gave us Saxon's *Caritas*, but when will we see it again? Collaboration between the Banff Centre and Cardiff has borne fruit in the shape of Metcalf's *Tornak* (no revival in sight) and Toovey's *Ubu* (no revival required, by all accounts). Kent Opera nurtured Judith Weir, but her *Night at the Chinese Opera*

was killed off along with the company, and her *Vanishing Bridegroom* remains unrevised. It is all too fragmented.

One gazes enviously at Germany, where the Munich Biennale under firm artistic leadership (Henzel) and generously sponsored (BMW) is a powerhouse of new work, including British new work (*Turnage, Param Vir*). Should all the studios and ventures here be combined under one roof to generate similar activity? One even gazes enviously at the United States where Weir has been taken up enthusiastically, where

composers such as Adams and Glass have struck an answering chord in a large audience, and where a mainstream company such as Lyric Opera of Chicago has made an eight-year commitment to contemporary American opera starting later this week with Boltom's *McTeague*.

There is product here, there is the will — as WPT has shown — but neither leadership nor administrative organisation. Until there is, new opera will remain on the sidelines, with disastrous effects on the future of the art-form.

Five million words may prove too many

HOW genuine is the much-quoted boom in the public appreciation of opera? That question is of more than passing interest to the publishers Macmillan, as they prepare to launch *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*. Expected retail at around £550, the four-volume monster (known affectionately as "Opera Grove" among the 800 musicologists to whom it has provided work in the last five years) will obviously not be an impulse purchase.

On the other hand, the Grove industry has been very profitable for Macmillan so far. It began under the editorship of former

ARTS BRIEFING

Times music critic Stanley Sadie, with the publication of the 20-volume *New Grove Dictionary of Music* ten years ago. Since then have come the multi-volumed *New Grove* dictionaries of musical instruments and of American music, as well as paperback spin-offs.

"Opera Grove" is described as "the first all-embracing reference work on opera": according to a Macmillan spokesman, "no other opera guide, from Kobbe's *Complete Opera Book* to the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music, can make such a claim." Among the five million words in "Opera Grove" will be 2,000 entries on operas, 2,500 on singers (including comparatively unestablished singers of today), and a staggering 2,000 entries on composers.

WE WONDERED in this column two weeks ago if the new Nobel prize-winner for literature would keep his date to read poetry at the

RADIO: Peter Barnard on the BBC's assumption of news supremacy; review by Derwent May

Only corporations shall speak unto nations?

FOR an operation allegedly run by a geriatric and a lame duck, the BBC is proving no slouch at massaging the Radio 4 debate. Finesse was rarely so refined. Already Broadcasting House has defined the argument to its own advantage, as witness the newspapers full of letters from Distinguished of Dagenham and Disconnected of the Dordogne. The debate is about which of two frequents the 24-hour BBC news should use. This is the broadcasting equivalent of deciding between hanging and shooting, without the tedium of a trial.

The trial, were we allowed one, would concern the level of desire for such a network and the suitability of the BBC to be its single parent. The flimsy evidence, were we encouraged to examine it, would come from the round-the-clock Gulf war adventure on Radio 4, which is alleged to have been a tremendous success. Apparently Operation Desert Radio captured the nation in days not weeks, the opposition shot to ribbons by the

massed tanks of BH. We interrupt this propaganda to enter a caveat.

There is no empirical evidence that the BBC is the best conduit for a 24-hour news network. The experiment during the Gulf war only proved that even when half the world is beating down the front door of a despot, there is very little real news. Retired General Sir Herbert Gutbuster wing with retired Admiral Sir Horatio Shipshape to guess what might be happening 4,000 miles away is not news coverage any more than Brian Johnston describing his latest cake is coverage of a Test match. It may be fun, but it's not cricket.

After decades of being told that only Radio 3 knew what was good for the nation's musical health, we at last have Classic FM proving otherwise. It may not be to all tastes, but it has expanded perceptions and proposed fresh definitions as to what culture might be. News is as much a part of the culture as music: do we want the BBC's news culture straddling the twin peaks of an ill-defined "hal-

ance" and John Birt's mission to explain, to be the exclusive, national siren of what news is?

The 200 metre band on long wave was not handed to the BBC by Marconi, let alone God. The corporation already has Radios 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. It has shown little originality in its use of the opportunity offered by having Radio 4 on two wavelengths: why anticipate originality when two wavelengths become two networks?

Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, should put a news network out to tender. That would measure demand and show whether the market thinks a news channel should be on FM or long wave. It would open the bidding to the likes of LBC, the London talk station, whose 24-hour mix of news and chat has not convincingly proven that commercial viability and instant access to breaking news can be combined. There is also ITN, whose Independent Radio News offshoot supplies most of the nation's commercial stations.

A BBC bid could well succeed, if the corporation can prove that its radio news flotilla is more than just a few glittering liners (*Today, The World Tonight*), plus a fleet of dinghies bobbing up every hour on the hour. The detailed market research that accompanies tendering would also be a way of measuring the real demand for 24-hour news.

If there is a real market for 24-hour news, there will be a real market to supply it. Tendering will

Clowns, cones and In-I-Go Jones

IN Ad Lib (Radio 4) on Saturday evening, Robert Robinson talked to some clowns. When he had a batch of long-distance lorry-drivers on the programme a few weeks ago, he could hardly get a word in, they were so busy chattering together over their adventures. But the clowns were a quiet and sober lot.

They told them the story of the depressed man who went to a doctor and was advised "Go and see the great clown Grimaldi." "I am Grimaldi," the man replied. The clowns denied that they were all chronically depressed; but they did feel they were at the bottom of the hierarchy in the circus, and they also agreed that the pleasure of the job was that they completely got away from their everyday selves.

On the same rather subdued note, they admitted that to be a real comedian was much harder — you didn't escape from your own personality when you were a comedian, you had to project it with

exceptional vigour. One young man remarked that it was difficult to tell a girl that you were a clown. You had to start by saying you were an entertainer — you made people laugh — and work up to it.

But they all loved their job, and were inclined to think it was because they could become like children again. "Have we ever grown up?" asked the one woman among them. I thought this was a really successful programme, bringing out such a wealth of introspection if not broken-heartedness behind the custard pies.

The short, straight talk — the glory of the wireless in its early days — seems to be making a cautious comeback on Radio 4. On Monday, in *That Boy Jones*, Malcolm Jones dug out the story of his namesake Edmund Jones, who as a young chimney sweep in 1841 twice broke into Buckingham Palace, once curling up under a sofa beside the Princess Royal's cot.

The authorities forced him to

become a sailor and kept him at sea for about five years. But *The Times, Punch*, and the *News of the World* all took up his cause and had great sport with it. They nicknamed him "In-Go Jones", and suggested that a better employment for him would be running the Post Office espionage service.

We also had 15 minutes in past in Richard Kelly's talk *The Ice Cream Man Cometh* on Saturday — a brief history of the Italians who started pouring into Glasgow in the 1970s and made their way to Tyneside, where they became ice cream men because it was the only business they could start without capital. Kelly as a boy had agonised in Newcastle market over whether to buy an ice-cream wafer from Toni or Rizzi, and he spoke with affection of these Italians, even when they were tempest by free holidays and medals to join fascist clubs in the 1930s.

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D. M.

Geneva's prospects look good

European cinema
has few truly
international stars.
David Robinson on
a festival that aims
to find some more

In pursuit of the great dream of a pan-European cinema that can challenge the Hollywood hegemony, the European Media Fund disburses huge resources every year. So far the main result has been an army of culimocrats, a plethora of mysterious agencies with pretentious acronyms and a distinctly modest handful of films which, even if they occasionally win nomination for Best Foreign Language Oscar, do not begin to compete with the Americans in terms of international box office.

The root of the problem is the lack of European stars with international appeal. We have Gérard Depardieu, 69-year-old Marcello Mastroianni, Nastassja Kinski maybe, but precious few others. In a brave corrective effort, the Geneva Film Festival was set up five years ago with the deliberate aim of spotlighting European Stars of Tomorrow. This year for the first time its small budget was augmented by a grant from European funds.

The 15 or so "Espoirs" who come with their films to Geneva (personal appearances are a condition of the competition) look and behave refreshingly unlike conventional stars. Their ages range from 14 to 30, and denim, boots and shaggy ponytails are more or less *de rigueur*. By and large they show a genuine interest in each other's work, and no aggressive competitiveness in pursuit of the prizes — one for each sex, with an additional international Press award this year for the first time.

British actors have had regular success in Geneva. In 1988 Dexter Fletcher took the prize for Bob Hoskins' *The Raggedy Rain*; in 1990 Ruth Sheen for Mike Leigh's *High Hopes*; and in 1991 Claire Skinner for Leigh's *Life is Sweet*. But none of these, it must be admitted, has so far become a household name in European films.

It is equally hard to predict a future for this year's British prize-winner Jaye Davidson, who plays the transsexual romantic interest in Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game*. This fragile youngster with his tiny, London-accented voice suits the eccentric, one-off role ideally, but is not



Exemplary performance: Karen-Lise Mynster in the title role of Liv Ullmann's atmospheric but undisciplined directorial debut, *Sofie*

likely to prove easy casting for anything else.

The feminine Espoir, the Romanian Mai Morgenstern, has temperament, fierce good looks and good English, so perhaps more chance of European stardom. At 30 the oldest competitor, her starring career was delayed by rampant anti-Semitism in the Ceausescu years. In *The Oak Tree*, an absurdist black comedy about that era, she plays a teacher whose non-conformist nature lands her at the sharp end of the Securitate.

Other Geneva hopefuls included Evgeni Mironov, a handsome 26-year-old, discovering both first love and national racism in a spirited, undisciplined Russian entry, *Love*; and Stefano Accorsi in the leading role of Pupi Avati's *Brothers and Sisters*. Rather coolly received at the Venice Festival and rejected by the London Festival, this is a dense, attractive and formally original treatment of a broken Italian family

retreating to the unfamiliar environment of the American Midwest.

The one undoubtedly new European star on show in Geneva was not an actor at all, however, but an English director who has chosen to work in Sweden. Colm Nutley began his career in English television, followed his wife to her native Sweden and has since made his career there.

His achievement has been to revive the long-disregarded genre of rural comedy, applying a mortally witty eye for petty bourgeois pretension and hypocrisy. His first feature, *The Ninth Company*, was about a group of soldiers who divert military equipment into profitable private enterprise; his second, *Black Jack*, was about a dance band. *House of Angels* — which will be seen at the London Film Festival — describes the murderous disruption of a stuffy village when

a sexy young city woman inherits the local manor. Nutley is one of the rare film-makers who suggest fruitful directions for European cinema.

Swedish cinema was specially featured in Geneva, showing the extent to which Ingmar Bergman continues to exert his influence, even though he has himself apparently given up directing. This year has seen two of his autobiographical scripts made by other directors: Billie August's pedestrian *The Best Intentions* related the Bergman parents' early married life, up to the birth of Ingmar.

Now Ingmar's son Daniel Bergman, has made *Sunday's Children*, which picks up little Ingmar at the age of eight, observing and suffering the strains of his parents' marriage. From time to time the film flashes forward to describe confrontations between the 50-year-old Bergman and his dying father. The fascination is to observe the 74-year-old Bergman revising his

views on the family that has dominated his personal and artistic mythology. Now the austere father, previously depicted as a minor sadist, is seen in a more kindly light while the mother takes on a less sanctified character.

Daniel Bergman is a promising director. Already traits of the adult Bergman are evident in this anxious little boy — even to the dramatic diarrhoea which figures so comically large in the autobiographical writings of Sweden's greatest film-maker.

Another Bergman disciple, the actress Liv Ullmann, makes her directorial debut with *Sofie*, based on a long chronicle novel about a Jewish family in Copenhagen at the turn of the century. The atmosphere is finely caught and the performances of Erland Josephson and Karen-Lise Mynster are exemplary, leaving a frustrating sense that there is a seriously good film hidden somewhere within an undisciplined and never-ending sprawl.

THEATRE: Peter Lewis on a chance to see an Italian classic staged by one of Europe's greatest directors

Giorgio Strehler, director of the Piccolo theatre of Milan, has been one of the dominating figures of European theatre for over 40 years. But apart from one brief but unforgettable visit with his company to a London World Theatre Season in 1967, he is known in Britain only as a name. So there is bound to be some curiosity about the Goldoni production that he brings to the National Theatre tomorrow as part of a European tour.

Over the years Strehler has given a new immediacy to Goldoni's plays, which had ossified in the traditions of *commedia dell'arte*. But he has also ranged widely over European drama and opera. Bertolt Brecht himself commended his production of *The Threepenny Opera* in 1956. His Shakespeare productions are famous, which makes it all the more frustrating that we have never seen them.

Now 71, tall, silver-haired and with a born actor-manager's instinctive dominance, Strehler responds energetically to an audience even of one. "Do I still have new ideas? Too many! I feel far younger than my real age." For the past four years he has devoted his energies to staging piecemeal Goethe's *Faust* — "Faust Fragments" he calls them — and returned to the stage to take the title role. His current project is to play his hero,

A master in any language



Giorgio Strehler: "Do I still have ideas? Too many!"

Chioggia, the fishing port at the southern tip of the lagoon.

In an explanatory note to the play, Goldoni writes: "The term 'baruffa' means confusion, a scuffle, a group of men and women shouting at each

other and hitting each other.

Such scuffles tend to be more common in Chioggia than anywhere else." An acceptable translation of the title might therefore be "The Squabbles of Chioggia" but the text itself

remains impenetrable to outsiders.

It is better to follow the play like a spoken opera, which is how it is performed, with arias, duets, quartets and choruses of taunting, indignation, entreaty, fury and reconciliation. It is also ballet.

In Strehler productions the

smallest movements in the

most complex groupings have

been finely calculated.

Strehler's preference is for

strong back-lighting, against

which the silhouette of an

actor's body is more telling

than his facial expression.

"Nobody in Chioggia has

ever laughed at this play," says

Strehler. "They took offence,

even in Goldoni's time." But

Goldoni knew his subjects. As

a young law student in 1728,

he had been given the job of

assistant to the examining

magistrate in Chioggia, sorting out the quarrels.

"Knowing their customs,

dialect, vivacity and malice, I

knew how to portray them," he

wrote in his memoirs. In

doing so he won one of the

earliest plays of working-class

realism. There is just one part

of higher social status — his

own role as magistrate's right-hand man.

Strehler's passion for Goldoni

began when he was 15 and dropped in on impulse to

watch an itinerant Venetian company which was visiting Milan. The effect was like a conversion. "I had never thought about the theatre," he says. "I went to the movies. But this was more real and more beautiful to me, even though they were probably not very good actors." Later he himself joined such a company, and after the war became Milan's leading theatre critic, before founding the Piccolo theatre in 1947.

"But in Milan our most

performed playright is not

Goldoni but Shakespeare. I

have done 12 Shakespeares

compared with eight Goldoni.

In England you have a big

problem — Shakespeare is

English! After centuries it is

hard for you to find a new way

of doing him. It is no accident

that Shakespeare was born

among the most theatrical

people in the world. English

actors are the best in the

world."

Would it have helped his

work if he had been born

English too? Strehler considers

this with an intrigued smile. "I believe my work has

in a small way changed things

in the theatre. If I were an

Englishman," he continues,

saying breaking into English to say it.

"I would now be — Sir

George!" The thought does

not displease him.

Le Banff Chiozzone is at the

Lytelton (071-928 2252), tomorrow, Friday, 7pm; Saturday, Monday, 2pm and 7pm.

Anthony CRICKMAY

THEATRE: Peter Lewis on a chance to see an Italian classic staged by one of Europe's greatest directors

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YOUNG Brahm's

Culture moves at break-neck speeds these days. Only a few months ago, "outing" — blowing the whistle on alleged homosexuals — was a serious matter, the subject of court cases and the ruin of incantious style magazines. The ethics of outing were discussed everywhere. Yet this contentious publicity stunt already appears to have gone through the cultural mill, and emerged again as a quaint parlour game for the chattering classes: the latest wheeze is to out the dead and buried.

Last night's *Dark Horses*,

part of Channel 4's *Without Walls* series, tried to drag D.H. Lawrence out of the closet and into the clear air of sexual honesty. The "high priest of love", as the film called him, is only the latest victim of television cutting. Michelangelo has already been given the Channel 4 treatment, and Donne is due to get his fairly shortly. And as for Joyce... well, what do you

TELEVISION REVIEW

Out on the road

expect with a name like that? The shame of this programme was that it revealed so little, which is a poor reflection on any exposé. Lawrence's homo-eroticism should be news to nobody. His love of the male form is a literary commonplace, and it spills over into barely suppressed lust on many occasions, notably in *Women in Love*. As Quentin Crisp pointed out memorably last night: "You can't help noticing it never mentions you-know-what."

In the subtler moments of the film, "gay" writers discussed the complexity of Lawrence's beliefs in "blood brotherhood" as the "clue to a new epoch," and the troubled nature of male friendship in an age overshadowed by the trial of Oscar Wilde. Speaking

for the post-feminists, Camille Paglia, the American academic, shouted amiably in praise of the author's bisexual creed. But most of this was ham-fisted psychoanalysis, cobbled together simply to prove that Lawrence was gay.

Funnily enough, Lawrence cropped up in the rather different second section of last night's *Without Walls*, a brief history of the Jaguar E-type. The talking heads discussing this sleek and outrageously fast sports car compared it with *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as an icon of the new permissive society of the 1960s — a comparison Lawrence, hardly an advocate of technology, would have found abhorrent.

Produced between 1961 and 1974, the E-type was about affordable, a symbol of

accessible glamour for those who wanted to be David Bailey or Jean Shrimpton gunning down the new M1 at 150 miles per hour.

The difficulty with *Without Walls* is trying to work out how all the bits are meant to fit together: is it a man's magazine along the lines of *GQ*, or a soap box for quirky and wacky causes? As if to link in with the Lawrence slot, there was a bit of psycho-babble thrown into the story of the E-type. "Sure, it's phallic," said one expert. "Cars are hermaphrodite." So now you know.

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WORLD CLASSICAL THEATRE

DANCE

Something to crow about

John Percival talks to choreographer Christopher Bruce, whose new work, *Rooster*, has its British premiere tonight

By any reckoning, Christopher Bruce is one of the best British choreographers working today. So why is his production of *Rooster* for London Contemporary Dance Theatre (opening in Leeds tonight) the only work of his we shall see all year, with the exception of *Swansong*, which had audiences cheering when given at the Coliseum by both English National Ballet and the Berlin Ballet?

Two years ago he ended his contract as resident choreographer with English National Ballet because "I was hanging on by my toenails thinking I was an indulgence they couldn't afford. With financial pressures, a triple bill would come up occasionally and you'd get your work on, but there wasn't time to rehearse properly."

He has increasingly accepted the many invitations he gets from abroad: lately he has worked mostly with the Houston Ballet in Texas and at the Grand Theatre, Geneva, where "the facilities are, on the whole, much better than in this country: the stages, the qualities of the dancers, the types of dancer, and the budgets."

Rooster, created last year in Geneva, is his first work for London Contemporary, although he made *Holiday Sketches* to Billie Holiday recordings, for their school about ten years ago. Over recent years he has concentrated on making contemporary work for classically-based dancers something he finds lacking in the big companies here, so that "a terrible rigor mortis is setting in because there's not enough work being made that is of our time — I guess because they don't think they can sell it, which actually is a bit of a myth if the work is good."

The invitation from LCDT was not a complete surprise, because he and the company's director, Robert Cohan,

Ten things you ought to know

A glimpse at what we watch and read

There is no more useful annual guide to the British media industry than the UK Media Yearbook* published by Zenith Media and Campaign. Its 133 pages offer a welter of fascinating statistics about television, radio and the cinema, the press, magazines, outdoor advertising and direct mail (2.1 billion items were pushed through our letter boxes last year at an average cost of 32p-45p), writes Brian MacArthur.

Here, culled from the 1992/93 edition, are ten things you never knew you never knew about what the British watch and read.

□ The average TV viewer spends three hours and 45 minutes tuned in every day — and four hours, 20 minutes in winter.

□ The average person sees 33 television commercials a day.

□ The average person spends just under three hours a day listening to the radio, and 91 per cent of the UK population switch on during an average week.

□ Despite the launch of ten national newspapers over the past eleven years, total circulated copies of national newspapers have fallen by 9 per cent and four of the ten titles have closed.

□ On an average weekday 56 per cent of adults read a national daily newspaper. Over a month 93 per cent read a national newspaper.

□ There are 1,265 local newspapers in the UK. Six million are circulated every weekend.

□ There are 2,400 magazines available to the consumer, up from 1,500 in 1982.

□ The highest circulating business and professional magazine is Computer Shopper, with an average circulation of 130,000 each month.

□ There were 93 million cinema admissions last year, up from 54 million in 1984, but a far cry from the medium's heyday of the 1940s and '50s when very few people had access to television. Cinema admissions reached a record in 1946 when 1.6 billion tickets were sold.

□ Two thirds of the 236 films shown at UK cinemas last year came from Hollywood. Just 31 were made in the UK. Nowadays, 39 per cent of the population never goes to the cinema.

*63-65 North Wharf Road, London W2 1LA (E15)

Harold Lind hopes

a leaner, fitter

MGN will emerge from the furore



Taking the helm: David Montgomery, the new MGN chief executive, and three of the papers whose future is in his hands. *The People* could be a prime candidate to be sold

The Sun (bought from IPC), which maintains a lead over the *Mirror* of about 800,000.

All of this might make one wonder whether Mr Montgomery's inheritance is worth having. I would argue that it certainly is provided that he can learn from past mistakes and seize the opportunities which are present.

The most obvious fact is that over the past couple of years the gap between the News International titles and MGN has ceased to widen and may even have narrowed (if we exclude *The People*). I suspect that the relentless decline of all circulations over this period has been due largely to the slump and that when recovery starts the decline should be

halted. Newspapers in a position to take advantage of this swing may find themselves in an excellent competitive situation for years to come and there is no reason why this should not be MGN if Mr Montgomery makes the right decisions. But what are these?

There are rumours that Mr Montgomery intends to sell *The Daily Record*. This would seem an odd decision. The *Sunday Mirror* and *Daily Mirror* together still make a formidable combination. The odd man out is *The People* which has always fitted uncomfortably into the Mirror fold and if money is required seems an obvious candidate for a sale.

With or without the sale of assets

Mr Montgomery will still need to answer the basic question facing all popular journalists: how to attract new readers without losing those they have. One factor seems likely to work in his favour. The *Mirror* has a long record of opposing the Conservatives and this seems likely to be a popular position to hold. To this extent I believe Mr Montgomery when he says that he has no intention of changing the basic political stance of the Mirror group. He would be a fool if he did.

However, other promises which Mr Montgomery has made (or at least half made) to the Mirror journalists seem to be rather more doubtful. Socialism often comes to stand for a surrender to overman-

ning, incompetence and the maintenance of boys in jobs which should no longer exist. All Fleet Street suffered from those faults until Rupert Murdoch moved the News International newspapers to Wapping. Most newspaper groups have since largely eliminated restrictive practices. However, MGN, at least where journalists are concerned, has retained much of the *ancien régime*, hence the strikes of rage and fear when Mr Montgomery's appointment was announced.

He has not entirely promised to preserve all their jobs; but in response to their pressure he has at least implied that he might. I suspect that if MGN is to grasp its opportunities Mr Montgomery will

have to trim the labour force. The *Mirror* employs a number of first rate journalists but in newspapers too many cooks, even competent cooks, spoil the broth and some pruning is likely to improve the printed sheet as much as the balance sheet.

In the long-running war between MGN and News International, Mr Murdoch has often played the part of Rommel, making sudden incursions which took his slower-moving rival by surprise. It will be fascinating to discover whether Mr Montgomery can justify his name by raising the morale of his troops enough to win the decisive battles which are likely over the next couple of years.

Festive flak flies as little hands reach out for gifts galore

Hark the Christmas advertsing sing, come and make the shop tills ring. Booze and perfumes, sweets and toys, gifts galore for girls and boys."

As King Wenceslas slips on his fury boots and prepares to sally forth on his seasonal trudge through the snow, advertising men are slipping on their festive flask jackets in preparation for the seasonal attack from truculent parents. From now until Yuletide they will be sniped at by hostile mums who hold Christmas advertising

responsible for encouraging their children to drive them bonkers.

It's called pester power. Come Christmas, children pester parents for presents. And commercial breaks are packed with advertising for presents. Ergo, parents believe, advertising causes the pestering.

This disingenuously conveniently ignores the existence of an ailment well-known to every child: amnesia parentalis. Can there be parents who did not, once upon a time, themselves try to get their tiny hands on as many Christmas gewgaws as they could? The com-

mercialisation of Christmas long pre-dates television advertisements. It was not advertising that invented Christmas stockings, crackers and Santa Clauses.

Parents, however, so resent pester power that it has been banned both by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) regulations. The ASA rule states: "Ad-

vertisements must not encourage children to make themselves a nuisance to their parents ... with the aim of persuading them to buy a product." The ITC rule is even stricter: "Phrases such as 'Ask Mummy to buy you ...' are not acceptable."

Despite this, parents still feel pestered. But the proof of this Christmas pudding is in the eating and if pester power worked the

number of toys sold each year should increase merely on high. That has not happened. During the 1980s, when toy advertising boomed, the value of sales in real terms remained reasonably constant. So pester power is not as powerful as all that.

Why then do the toy manufacturers spend £26 million a year on advertising? The principal reason is that the market has changed. Novelty is the name of the game. Every year a plethora of new playthings hits the shops and, to be sold, they have to be advertised.

From today the Media page appears every Wednesday

CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING

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Thousands of warring couples are forced to live together because they cannot sell their homes. Rachel Kelly reports

They are known as "caged couples" by estate agents: those forced to live together after their relationship has ended because they cannot sell their home.

Nobody knows how many people are suffering in this way but agents estimate, from the number of divorces alone, that there could be tens of thousands. Each year 160,000 couples divorce. In addition, thousands of unmarried couples who had been living together separate when their partnership sours.

The numbers are likely to increase as the divorce rate rises with the recession. In its annual review, published earlier this month, Relate, formerly the National Marriage Guidance Council, said that more marriages were failing because of the recession. A record number of 70,000 couples sought help last year for the first time after problems with their marriages, compared with 45,000 five years ago.

Unemployment, redundancy and mounting debts have had a "devastating impact" on family life. With the approach of Christmas, known as the divorce season, the number of break-ups increases.

Not all those divorcing or splitting up will be forced to co-habit. Sometimes the couple are renting. (A third of households do.) Even if the couple own the house, one partner may move out and rent or stay with friends until the house is sold. Sometimes, the house will not need to be sold, but people seldom want to build a new relationship in the same property.

Many more people, however, will not be able to afford the luxury of keeping their home, nor can they afford to move out. They must remain trapped in houses they own until the house is sold. What was once their castle has become their prison. They are the forgotten victims of the housing market slump. "It is happening up and down the country," Harry Hill, managing director of Hamptons Countywide, one of the country's biggest estate agents, says. "Thousands of people are affected."

In a boom, the house is sold in a matter of months. The emotional toner of living with a former partner is short-lived. But contemplate the problems that such couples now face when they try to sell.

Numbers are likely to increase as the divorce rate rises with the recession

est tax relief. Often, the relationships were fragile from the start. Such caged couples are overwhelmingly in the South East, with perhaps even less chance than others of escaping.

The rash of conversions in Victorian and Edwardian terraces during the property boom led to a plethora of studio flats to cater for demand from first-time buyers.

Now demand for such property, often converted on the cheap, has drifted away as a new generation of potential first-time buyers shuns home ownership and decides to rent. When the new generation

does enter the housing market, analysts believe that it is likely to use its increased earnings to skip a rung of the ladder and buy a small house rather than a poor conversion.

Some reluctant sharers may not have negative equity, but they are ensnared in the housing market log jam. Agents estimate that at present half of all sales are falling through.

The fact of a failed relationship will do little to help their sales pitch. The three Ds (divorce, debt and death) are said to be an agent's best friend, but in a slump, even the smallest difficulty can kill a sale.

Mr Hill says that in a recession the smallest impediment can become a mountain. "You need everything on your side in a soft market." He comments. "Often, only one partner wishes to sell. We find that most often it is the woman who does not want to sell because she wants to preserve the family home for her children."

If you sell a house for £100,000, for example, you get substantially less than a house half the size for your half share of the proceeds, and few wives relish the prospect of such reduced circumstances.

Sometimes the warring parties who jointly own a home will appoint different estate agents. Disgruntled, wives have been known to ruin a sale by reference to the pig farm down the road. In a fragile market, the mere mention of a divorce might be enough to put off a buyer, who may fear that one

party will pull out. There is little to relieve their plight. Sarah Bowler, a marriage guidance counsellor with Relate, suggests that it is possible to negotiate about sharing living space if the house or flat is small, or splitting it up more permanently if space allows, to soothe the aggravation of living together.

Agents report cases of houses with chalk lines on the kitchen floor dividing the space and rotted pinned up in the bathroom. "This is not new," Ms Bowler says. "People in the past have split up their homes or divided a flat into two bedsits. However, it has got worse with the recession. People feel that they are victims." She advises seeing a counsellor, but admits that little can be done to improve or end such a situation.

For Maureen Becque, the strain of staying with her former husband eventually proved too much. She lived for more than two years with Edward, her ex-husband, in the Plough & Harrow public house in Kent. They bought the pub on the edge of the village of Tilmanstone in 1987 and built it into a thriving local.

The marriage floundered, however, and two years ago they divorced. They decided to live together while they tried to sell the pub. Neither was prepared to relinquish it. Their home was their livelihood. The strain was palpable, but they managed to muddle on. Mr Becque slept in the studio flat they once shared, and Mrs Becque lived in a guest room. However, the £320,000 pub did not sell.

Eventually the strain proved too much and the relationship soured further, and recently Mr Becque moved out. "It's a great relief that he has gone," Mrs Becque says. "I found the situation very stressful, especially as we had to keep up a good front for the customers."

"There was nowhere I could retreat to. I just had to disappear into my own room and close the door. But he had to pass my door to get to his. It was impossible to start a new relationship."

Her first step on getting the flat all to herself was to scrub it from top to toe to erase any signs of the past.

For thousands of others still forced to share, that moment still eludes them.

'There was nowhere to retreat. I just had to disappear into my own room'



Alone at last: Maureen Becque's husband has now moved out of their pub in Tilmanstone, Kent

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British contingent recovering from Atlantic flight ordeal

FROM RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT, IN MIAMI

AS TEMPERATURES here soared into the high Eighties, Britain's contingent of Breeders' Cup horses were recovering from an horrific Atlantic ordeal, which came close to ruining their chances at Gulfstream Park on Saturday.

The DC8 from Stansted transporting 18 horses, worth an estimated £20 million, was three hours from landing at Fort Lauderdale when it suddenly completed the equivalent of an aviation bungy jump.

The aircraft fell like a stone for an estimated 500 feet after hitting an air pocket, before bouncing back just as quickly.

"Everybody hit the roof, the horses included," Nick Vaughan, a John Gosden lad, said.

The filler at the rear of the aircraft, including Marling and Culture Vulture, suffered the worst. Red Slippers, who runs in a valuable handicap on Sunday, had a head wound stabled after landing.

"It was enough to put you off flying for life. It happened so quickly we seemed to go on for a lifetime. It is the closest I have been to thinking my

number was up," Vaughan added.

"We were very lucky and so are the horses. They got away with scrapes and scratches, but nothing too severe. If it had gone on longer, it would have been very serious."

Several of the horses went down as the plane fell, before suddenly coming back up again.

Ian Willows, head travelling lad with Luca Cumani, added: "The whole thing was a nightmare. It was my worse experience in 25 years of flying with horses."

"Blackie" Blackwell, from Geoff Wragg's yard, commented: "The horses went up and down two or three times. They were nearly on the floor. It was really bad."

After it happened there was dust everywhere. Although they escaped serious injury, the effect on the horses' mental state is hardly the ideal preparation for racing's \$10 million world championships.

With the Sunshine State living up to its name, Britain's strongest-ever Breeders' Cup team must now get used to the heat of the Cup. It will be easy, you all will be here."

However, Lukas is the first

to admit that the Europeans are learning. "I think you are getting better at it, knowing what it takes. And don't forget, you have never seen \$10 million on a table in one afternoon. That alone is enough to clear the sinuses."

The French horses, who arrived a day earlier than the British contingent, cleared quarantine yesterday, which allows Arazi and others to have a canter round the chocolate-brown dirt track.

Arazi remains front page news here despite his much-publicised defeat last May in the Kentucky Derby.

He reflected: "This is the

biggest challenge from Europe so far, but it is not a numbers game. It is very tough on you guys. You've got the flight, the travelling, the heat and the sharp turns here — but that's what makes the Breeders' Cup. If it were easy, you all will be here."

Despite the quality of his form, nobody could have been confident of success for Pips Pride, since torrential rain throughout the afternoon had made the going desperate. Indeed, the two races after the Gold Trophy were abandoned due to waterlogging.

While conceding that Dancing Moon, Dili, Licorne, Lile

and Hammer and Ponds are all

Pips Pride bonus for McKeown

DEAN McKEOWN picked up the spare ride of a lifetime on Pips Pride in the £100,000 Racebook Gold Trophy at Redcar yesterday.

Landrane Defiori had been booked to ride Richard Hannan's colt in the six-furlong contest, but McKeown got an early call to take over when the Italian-born rider was forced to give up his trip to Cleveland because of flu.

Pips Pride, drawn on the far side and a well-backed 6-1 second favourite, was in front virtually from the start and had the prize sewn up by halfway.

The only group one winner in the 24-runner line-up — he landed the Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown in August — Hannan's colt ploughed through the appalling conditions to score by a length-and-a-half from Revelation.

While neither Yeltsin, who had shown promise first time out in the race won by Beggarman Thief at Yarmouth, nor Araadah have run since, the form of the Newcastle race has been boosted by the runner-up.

He won impressively at York before finishing a highly credible second in the group three Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury last Thursday.

Of the others who have run, Bay Queen has the best form, finishing fourth behind Lyford Cay at York.

While conceding that Dancing Moon, Dili, Licorne, Lile

Araadah has fine chance to confirm Newcastle promise

ARAADAH, from Harry Thomson Jones's Newmarket stable, has a fine chance of winning the Caister for Holidays Maiden Fillies Stakes at Yarmouth today and she is my nap.

This beautifully-bred daughter of Blushing Groom ran a race of infinite promise first time out at Newcastle, where she finished third behind Yeltsin and Bin Ajwad over a mile, staying on.

Hannan and Ponds are all bred to be good, they will have to be a bit special to cope on their debut with Araadah.

One newcomer who could win today though is Moonstrike, who is taken to land the Seashore Maiden Stakes, the other race for two-year-olds, on the insistence of George Robinson, our Newmarket correspondent.

Apparently, this son of that fast American horse Strike Gold has inherited his sire's speed. Moonstrike is trained by Bill O'Gorman, who has long been well-versed in the art of extracting the best out of speed horses.

While Moonstrike cost a mere 20,000 guineas as a yearling, Half Term, the John Gosden runner, went for \$825,000.

He was a half-brother, by Mr Prospector, to Half-A-Year who was useful over a mile for Luca Curnini in 1987.

Dormula, who stopped quickly after looking likely to win on his debut at Folkestone eight days ago, is probably the one that Moonstrike has to beat.

Cutwater, who started 7-4 on to make a victorious debut over six furlongs at Redcar a fortnight ago, now steps up to a mile for the Hemby Holiday Stakes, having failed, somewhat ignominiously, on that occasion to live up to his home reputation.

In this instance I prefer Shaikh Mohammed's other runner, Kristianstad, who has been working so well of late and who is the form horse in the field.

Amazon Express, last seen winning by 15 lengths over hurdles at Fakenham eight days ago, is now taken to win his first Flat race for his new trainer, Reg Akhurst, who secured him after he had been bought by his owner after winning a seller for Clive Britain at Folkestone in September.

At Sedgefield, Sandy's Beacon, who won the Sam Berry Novices' Chase at the last meeting on the track, is taken to follow up in style by winning the Johnny Ridley Memorial Novices' Chase.

Likewise at Fontwell, St Athanas Lad, who captured the Frank Cundell Challenge Trophy by 12 lengths at the last meeting, can give a repeat performance by landing the Derek Wigan Memorial Novices' Chase.

Gredley star gets ready for Japan

USER FRIENDLY's trip to the Far East was confirmed yesterday when connections received an invitation to run the filly in the Japan Cup.

Bill Gredley's Arc runner-up was handed one of the four places available to European-trained horses for the November 29 contest.

She will be joined in Tokyo by the Derby winner Dr Devious recently bought by the Japanese owner Zenya Yoshida, and possibly her Longchamp conqueror, Subotica, and the Arlington Million winner Dear Doctor, who received other invitations.

Subotica is expected to retire to stud after running in Saturday's Breeders' Cup Turf in Florida and, in the event of any withdrawals, the Arc third, Vert Amande, and Ireland's Kooyonga, listed among the eight reserves, are favourites to step in.

User Friendly, winner of the Oaks, Irish Oaks and St Leger, was out on the gallops yesterday.

"She is in brilliant form," reported Gredley. "She did a bit of work this morning and is back to her old self."

"No matter how well a horse can take her racing, she has had a hard season. But by missing the Breeders' Cup, hopefully, she will line up in Japan at the peak of her form."

User Friendly will probably fly out two weeks before the race to give her time to acclimatise after seven days in quarantine.

The majority of her rivals may not be known until at least next week, with many of the horses invited due to take part in the Breeders' Cup.

Increase in daily rates

THE Flat daily rates next year will rise between eight per cent and 26 per cent under prize-money arrangements announced yesterday by the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

The daily rates form part of the Levy Board's £25 million prize-money allocation in 1993, an increase of £6 million on last year.

For the first time, the rates for the all-weather tracks will be the same for both turf and all-weather racing.

The Levy Board has also approved recommendations for increased allocations of £1,473,000 and £675,000 to the Flat and National patterns respectively. On the Flat, priority has been given to increasing grants for group three races, which, in a European context, are considered to require particular support.

Top miller Lahib has been retired to stand at his owner's Shaikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum's Derrinstown Stud in County Kildare, Ireland. His covering fee is £16,000.

Pips Pride

bonus for

McKeown

DEAN McKEOWN picked up the spare ride of a lifetime on Pips Pride in the £100,000 Racebook Gold Trophy at Redcar yesterday.

Landrane Defiori had been booked to ride Richard Hannan's colt in the six-furlong contest, but McKeown got an early call to take over when the Italian-born rider was forced to give up his trip to Cleveland because of flu.

Pips Pride, drawn on the far side and a well-backed 6-1 second favourite, was in front virtually from the start and had the prize sewn up by halfway.

The only group one winner in the 24-runner line-up — he landed the Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown in August — Hannan's colt ploughed through the appalling conditions to score by a length-and-a-half from Revelation.

While neither Yeltsin, who had shown promise first time out in the race won by Beggarman Thief at Yarmouth, nor Araadah have run since, the form of the Newcastle race has been boosted by the runner-up.

He won impressively at York before finishing a highly credible second in the group three Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury last Thursday.

Of the others who have run, Bay Queen has the best form, finishing fourth behind Lyford Cay at York.

While conceding that Dancing Moon, Dili, Licorne, Lile

and Hammer and Ponds are all

bred to be good, they will have to be a bit special to cope on

their debut with Araadah.

This beautifully-bred daughter of Blushing Groom ran a race of infinite promise first time out at Newcastle, where she finished third behind Yeltsin and Bin Ajwad over a mile, staying on.

Hannan and Ponds are all

bred to be good, they will have to be a bit special to cope on

their debut with Araadah.

One newcomer who could win today though is Moonstrike, who is taken to land the Seashore Maiden Stakes, the other race for two-year-olds, on the insistence of George Robinson, our Newmarket correspondent.

Apparently, this son of that fast American horse Strike Gold has inherited his sire's speed. Moonstrike is trained by Bill O'Gorman, who has long been well-versed in the art of extracting the best out of speed horses.

While Moonstrike cost a mere 20,000 guineas as a yearling, Half Term, the John Gosden runner, went for \$825,000.

He was a half-brother, by Mr Prospector, to Half-A-Year who was useful over a mile for Luca Curnini in 1987.

Dormula, who stopped quickly after looking likely to win on his debut at Folkestone eight days ago, is probably the one that Moonstrike has to beat.

Cutwater, who started 7-4 on to make a victorious debut over six furlongs at Redcar a fortnight ago, now steps up to a mile for the Hemby Holiday Stakes, having failed, somewhat ignominiously, on that occasion to live up to his home reputation.

In this instance I prefer Shaikh Mohammed's other runner, Kristianstad, who has been working so well of late and who is the form horse in the field.

Amazon Express, last seen winning by 15 lengths over hurdles at Fakenham eight days ago, is now taken to win his first Flat race for his new trainer, Reg Akhurst, who secured him after he had been bought by his owner after winning a seller for Clive Britain at Folkestone in September.

At Sedgefield, Sandy's Beacon, who won the Sam Berry Novices' Chase at the last meeting on the track, is taken to follow up in style by winning the Johnny Ridley Memorial Novices' Chase.

Ladbrokes have cut Rambo's Hall from 7-1 to 4-1 joint-favourite, with Millsolin, with

the Autumn Handicap at Newmarket on Saturday.

McKeown, 4-1, and Gredley, 5-1, are the others.

McKeown

Villa aim to stretch unbeaten sequence

Ferguson frustrated with United's lack of firepower

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SCORING only 14 goals in 13 matches is not the stuff of cups or championships and Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is well aware of his club's principal shortcoming.

Before taking his side to Villa Park for a Coca-Cola third round tie against Aston Villa tonight, Ferguson conceded he was concerned. "Not scoring is very frustrating and worrying," he said. "We badly need to start getting the breaks in the penalty area."

Ferguson was in Oslo on Sunday to look at Tore Andre Dahlum, the £600,000-rated Rosenberg striker, in the Norwegian cup final. He scored in the win over Lillestrøm but Ferguson was not convinced.

"It is easy to bring these players in but it is more difficult to be sure that they would do well at a club like Manchester United," he said.

Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, has a point to prove. He was dismissed by United, apparently for failing to win a championship — an achievement that has also eluded Ferguson. "This is one of the big matches of the season," Atkinson, whose side is unbeaten in nine matches, said.

Another run with a score to settle is Paul McGrath, the Villa central defender, who was sold by Ferguson after the United manager called in a priest in an attempt to control McGrath's alleged drink problem.

Ferguson's recently published book on life at Old Trafford devotes a fair amount of space to McGrath, who is

said to be contemplating legal action.

In an attempt to defuse the situation yesterday, Ferguson said: "In 18 years as a manager, I have never criticised a player in public before but my book set out to describe six years of management at Old Trafford and, unavoidably, had to deal with several controversial issues. Paul McGrath was one of them."

"I have the highest regard for McGrath, who has since admitted that leaving United was the right thing for him as well as the club."

Blackburn Rovers, the Premier League leaders, face second-placed Norwich City at Ewood Park but no one expects a repeat of their league fixture last month, which finished 7-1 in Blackburn's favour.

Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, said: "I have told my players to be patient." Derby County's multi-million pound team awaits the arrival of Arsenal at the Baseball Ground, having won six of their last seven games after a poor start to the first division programme.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said: "One of the biggest problems when you bring in a lot of new players is waiting for them to gel. Derby have found it takes a while."

"We're expecting a great game. It is an intimidating atmosphere at the Baseball Ground and it should be an excellent cup tie."

Arsenal were indebted to David Seaman, their goal-

keeper, for saving three penalties when a shoot-out at Millwall decided their second round tie. With Derby having put seven goals past Southend United in the second round, not to mention four against Charlton Athletic in the league last Saturday, Seaman might need to be at his best tonight.

Not that Graham has any qualms about his last line of defence. "Seaman has been back to his best lately," he said. "He kept us in the game in the last round and has kept a level head about losing his England place and all the criticism he has faced."

"I have never had any doubts. For my money, David is the best goalkeeper in the country."

Tony Adams and Steve Bould, my centre backs, have also been playing well recently," Graham said. "That old Arsenal meanness is slowly coming back. Sometimes you have to forsake skill."

Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United face possibly their stiffest test of the season at Chelsea, where they must bounce back from their 1-0 home defeat by Grimsby on Saturday.

Chelsea have Mick Harford and Joe Allon, the former Newcastle players, in their squad and will be heartened by the news that Keegan has injury worries about David Kelly, Barry Venison and Kevin Sheedy.

Brian Clough's troubled Nottingham Forest, who have won the competition four times, face a potentially tricky trip to Crewe Alexandra.

During the forthcoming Test and internationals, bowlers will still be limited to one fast, short-pitched ball an over per batsman. A bouncer will be defined, though, as a ball that passes above the batsman's head, rather than his shoulder. A second such ball in the over will be sig-

nalled as a wide, instead of a no-ball.

When it was pointed out at a press conference that batsmen could be stumped or cut hit-wicket from a wide, Dr Ali Bachar, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said the amendment could be reviewed when it was seen how it worked.

Amrit Mathur, the Indian manager, said the plan to use an umpire in the pavilion to watch television replays on run out, stumping and hit-wicket decisions was an experiment which could eliminate controversy. "Other countries might well follow

our lead," he said. It has been agreed to dispense with the yellow light which originally was to have been switched on by the pavilion umpire if he was unable to reach a conclusion from the replays. The third umpire will now either switch on a green light for the batsman to go, or a red one for him to stay.

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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (49848)
6.30 BBC Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (262252).
9.05 News: Robert Jobson chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (672256). *Ross King Game* show. The guests are Ted and Kate Robbie (s) (622277).
10.00 News, regional news and weather (408017) **10.05 Playdays**. For the very young (s) (718493).
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes Lesley Joseph noshing at a viewer's home, Barbara Cartland with a love story, consumer affairs and Claire Rayner's agony aunt phone-in (s). With news (Ceefax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (7752798).
12.15 TV: *Des O'Connor* (Tom Spiers) is guest broadcaster and Michael Parkinson and Colin Dexter, the creator of Inspector Morse (655918). *12.30 TV*: *Michael Parkinson* and *Colin Dexter* (655918).
1.00 Nine O'Clock News with Philip Hayton and *Weather* (633658).
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (6305693). **1.30 EastEnders** (r). (*Ceefax*) (s) (6303693). **2.20 Heartbeat Five-O**. Last in the American police drama series. A ten year old missing persons case is reopened after the discovery of the remains of a man and a woman. Starring Jack Lord (5443312).
3.10 Primestime. The first of a new magazine series presented by Roy Castle and Maggie Philbin. Includes Lord Lichfield launching a photography competition (s) (7614683). **3.40 Lifeline**. Jonathan Dimbleby with an appeal on behalf of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (r) (s) (237401).
3.50 Dooley Duck's Euro Tour (s) (470574) **3.55 Radio Roc**. Episode five of a 13-part comedy drama (r) (s) (6380374). **4.10 Potsworth & Co** (r) (1758585) **4.35 What's That Noise?** The Tracy brothers listen to London's musical sounds (7031409).
5.00 Newsworld (6059461) **5.05 Grange Hill**. Drama serial set in a secondary school (r). (*Ceefax*) (s) (4182577).
5.35 Neighbours (r). (*Ceefax*) (s) (6034020). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (*Ceefax*) Weather (515).
6.30 Regional News Magazines (867). Northern Ireland: Neighbour 7.00 *El Dorado*. (*Ceefax*) (s) (6226).



Earthbound: Stableford, Bellington, Hamm, Pryce (7.30pm)

7.30 Tomorrow's World: A Space Year Special presented by Judith Hann, Howard Stableford, Kate Bellingham and Carmen Pryce. A look at some of the practical achievements that space technology has made possible. (*Ceefax*) (s) (751).
8.00 Trainer. Drama serial set in the horse racing world, starring David McCallum, Susannah York, Mark Greenstreet and Patrick Ryecart. (*Ceefax*) (s) (813157).
8.50 Points of View presented by Anne Robinson (s) (740521).
8.55 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (190062).
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (*Ceefax*) Regional news weather (4374).
9.30 Pole to Pole. On the second leg of his journey from the North to the South Poles. Michael Palin has 12 days in which to travel from St Petersburg to the Black Sea port of Odessa. (*Ceefax*) (233119).
10.20 Sportsnight introduced by Bob Wilson. Boxing: Bolton's Carl Crook fights his British and Commonwealth lightweight titles against Luton's Billy Silver at the Albert Hall; Racing: Julian Wilson profiles the South African rider Michael Roberts; Football: the goals and talking points from the week's Premier League matches (3013549).
11.50 Weather (298461). Ends at 11.55.
12.00 BBC Select: Executive Business Club Preview: Managing Money (52165). Ends at 2.45. 4.00 TV Edits. Ends at 4.50.

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 An London except: 2.15-2.45 *Country Practice* (130719) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (673041) 10.45 *Anglia Sport Special* (671654) 2.25-7.30 *Hollywood Report* (671654)
BORDER
 An London except: 2.15-3.10 The Nature of Things (171810) 6.25-7.00 *Country and Town* (171810) 8.45-9.00 *London Tonight* (683) 8.50-9.00 *Blockbusters* (237119) 12.25 *Tanner* (2110763) 12.45 *Granada Soccer Night* (2608157) 12.45 *Granada* (210763) 1.25 *Danube* (210763) 1.25 *Danube* (210763) 2.20 *Video News* (6536705) 3.25 *Granada* (210763) 3.25 *Granada* (210763) 4.00 *Top of the Week* (6083621) 4.05 *Pick of the Week* (24082556) 4.25-5.40 *Jobs* (9709079).
HTV WEST
 An London except: 1.45 *The Young Ones* (171810) 2.15-2.45 *Country Practice* (140919) 4.30-5.40 *Home and Away* (171810) 5.45-6.00 *HTV News* (673041) 6.00-6.30 *Blockbusters* (237119) 6.00-6.30 *Granada Tonight* (683) 6.25-7.00 *Granada Soccer Night* (2608157) 6.25-7.00 *Granada* (210763) 6.25-7.00 *Granada* (210763) 7.00-7.30 *Granada* (210763) 7.00-7.30 *Granada* (210763) 7.30-8.00 *Blockbusters* (237119) 7.30-8.00 *Granada Tonight* (683) 7.30-8.00 *Granada* (210763) 7.30-8.00 *Granada* (210763) 8.00-8.30 *Blockbusters* (237119) 8.00-8.30 *Granada Tonight* (683) 8.00-8.30 *Granada* (210763) 8.00-8.30 *Granada* (210763) 8.30-9.00 *Blockbusters* (237119) 8.30-9.00 *Granada Tonight* (683) 8.30-9.00 *Granada* (210763) 8.30-9.00 *Granada* (210763) 9.00-9.30 *Blockbusters* (237119) 9.00-9.30 *Granada Tonight* (683) 9.00-9.30 *Granada* (210763) 9.00-9.30 *Granada* (210763) 9.30-10.00 *Blockbusters* (237119) 9.30-10.00 *Granada Tonight* (683) 9.30-10.00 *Granada* (210763) 10.00-10.30 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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28 1992

Wood optimistic threats to tour can be overcome

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), was last night optimistic that the first South African rugby tour to England for 23 years would go ahead. The tour has been put in jeopardy by the decision of the South African National Olympic Sports Congress (NoSC), supported by the African National Congress (ANC), to withdraw support for rugby tours to and from South Africa.

After a day of discussions, Wood said: "I think there is movement in the right direction on the part of the ANC. I am hoping for a further state-

ment tomorrow. I am pleased to say there is a degree of goodwill, certainly towards us, on the part of all parties."

"But we are pawns in this game. We are going to be stuck with one situation or another, and we will have to live with whatever happens."

Wood said there had been discussions with the police concerning security at all four grounds — Leicester, Bristol, Leeds and Twickenham — to be used during the English section of the tour. He admitted security at Twickenham, where South Africa play England on November 14, had been tightened.

The tour had appeared under increasing threat when

two city councils declared that they were considering cancelling matches against the Springboks. Leeds council, which administers Elland Road, where the North play the tourists on November 10, announced yesterday that it had written to Danie Craven, the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) president, asking for a commitment to desegregate rugby and to meet NoSC to "ensure all previous agreements on desegregating rugby are implemented".

The council said it had been told by the ANC that a positive response from Craven would "go a long way to ensuring that the tour of England would enjoy the ANC's un-

qualified support". Leicester council said it was examining the terms of its lease of the Welford Road ground, where the Midlands provide the first opposition next Wednesday, and suggested that the Leicester club called off the match.

Local groups of the Anti-apartheid Movement in Bristol, Leeds, Leicester and London have voted to organise protests if required.

Muleki George, the NoSC president, reiterated his stance on withdrawing support for rugby tours, accusing Sarfu officials of failing to develop the sport among black people. NoSC had said also that it would no longer back the

1995 Rugby World Cup, due to be staged in South Africa.

"They have made promises in the past and they have failed to honour all those promises," George said yesterday. "Once the problems are solved, we can talk sense. The South African RFU has failed to implement the development programme that it promised at the beginning of the year... rugby is dying in all black areas."

George said NoSC would not give back its support to the tour if Sarfu agreed to meet its demands. "We did that in the past. We are not going to be convinced by any promises now," he said. However, he believed the World Cup could

still go ahead. "It is up to Sarfu. If it solves its problems and gets its act together, the World Cup could be saved."

Danie Serfontein, the RFU president, feared that rugby would continue to be the most abused sporting pawn in South African politics. He questioned the decision to allow India's cricketers into South Africa for a full-scale tour, saying: "That is not on. Stop all sports if you feel that strongly. They know rugby is the most powerful weapon because it is the national sport. They will hold the World Cup to ransom too."

The South African rugby players and management in Tours preparing for the final

match in France before arriving in England, were last night trying to keep their minds on the game today with a French Students XV. James Small, the wing, said: "What really saddens me is that people back home still treat us as a symbol of white South Africa. We are not the team of the whites. We are a team of all South Africans, black, white or pink."

Jacky Abrahams, the assistant tour manager, said he was determined to set the tour through but would not say whether he thought it would run its full course.

David Miller, page 14
Australian win, page 36

MCC asks
members
to rethink
on Gower

MCC members intent on calling for a costly extraordinary general meeting to discuss a motion of no confidence in the England committee were yesterday asked by the club to reconsider their views. Ivo Temmam writes. More than 200 names were collected after David Gower and Jack Russell had been left out of the winter tour party.

The signatories have agreed to talk to Dennis Silk, president of MCC, before attempting to press further for the special meeting. Silk is prepared to write to the Test and County Cricket Board, outlining the members' grievances.

But some of these people are zealous," Dennis Oliver, organiser of the petition, said. "The chances of the president containing them are remote. We want the president to read us his prepared letter before we meet him. There is no way I am going to back down."

Gower is undeterred by having been told by MCC that the cost of hiring a hall and notifying the membership would be around £15,000. "Money does not matter, otherwise the signatories would not have signed," he said.

"This will be money well spent if it means the committee does not do exactly as it likes. MCC has plenty of money. I have not heard anyone other than MCC put forward the argument that it will be wasted. This is members' money," Oliver said.

Gower's OBE, page 18



Big match build-up: Glenn Lazarus, right, the Brisbane forward known as "The Brick", with his captain, Langer, yesterday at Wigan, where the Australians play the English rugby league champions on Friday

Confident Broncos can
give Wigan a rough ride

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER the rugby league World Cup comes the World Club Challenge, and with it a possible Australian double in less than a week.

The Brisbane Broncos bucked traditional minimalist thinking during the Australian season which ended recently, winning the Winfield Cup competition at a canter. Wigan are wary of a stampede at Central Park on Friday.

Six days after the 10-6 defeat of Great Britain by Australia, seven of Wigan's eight-strong Wembley contingent — Lydon, with an ankle injury, is an almost certain absentee — will be reacquainted with a half-dozen Broncos.

Celebrations notwithstanding, all six Australians pronounced themselves fit yesterday when visiting the home of the English champions.

In the case of Wayne Bennett, the Broncos coach, appearances are deceiving. Lurking behind his poker face is one of the most cultured and visionary coaching brains.

Brisbane entered the Sydney-dominated competition only four years ago, yet they

are already being touted as one of its finest exponents. In last month's Winfield Cup grand final, they defeated Sydney St George 28-8.

In a game in which defensive intensity predominates, Bennett has restored the values of flair and adventure.

With an all-international back line, including the indomitable Langer at scrum half, Renouf, the scorer of the decisive try in the World Cup final in the centre, and the pace of Hancock and Carne on the wings, the combination is a welcome sight.

"We don't ruck it up all day," Langer, the Brisbane captain, said yesterday.

"Wayne loves us to attack, and that can be from anywhere on the park. After our success, maybe more sides back home will look to get away from the grinding style."

That's not to say that Brisbane are not tough. Saturday's grueling match at Wembley left its mark, Langer coming away from that game with a chest injury severely aggravated, casting a degree of doubt over whether or not he would

be able to play on Friday. "Allan's chest is bruised and sore," Bennett said, "but he's keen to play and has trained all right, so there shouldn't be a problem."

Unusually for a match between the English and Australian champion sides, Wigan are the ones more likely to opt for a policy of safety first and a gradual build-up.

Bennett will prefer what his side does best: "shoveling it out quickly and running hard and fast."

The sides are expected to name their lineouts today. Wigan, at present third in the English third division, have fitness problems with Hampson, the full back who has a groin strain, and Phil Clarke.

Three previous World Club Challenge matches won by Wigan in 1987 and 1991 and by Widnes in 1989, have been devalued by being staged just days after the conclusion of a draining Australian season. Brisbane's challenge, coming five weeks after their triumph in Sydney, is by far the toughest.

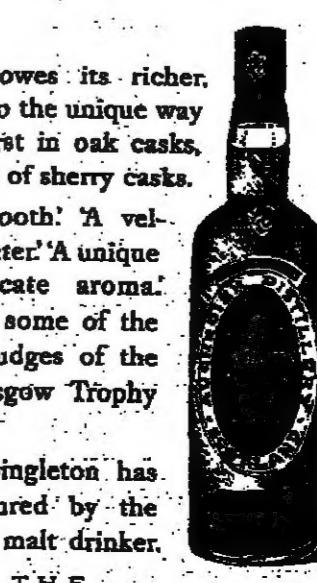
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THE SINGLETON,
THE JUDGES
WERE SINGING
ITS PRAISES.**

The Singleton owes its richer, fuller character to the unique way it is matured; first in oak casks, then in the finest of sherry casks.

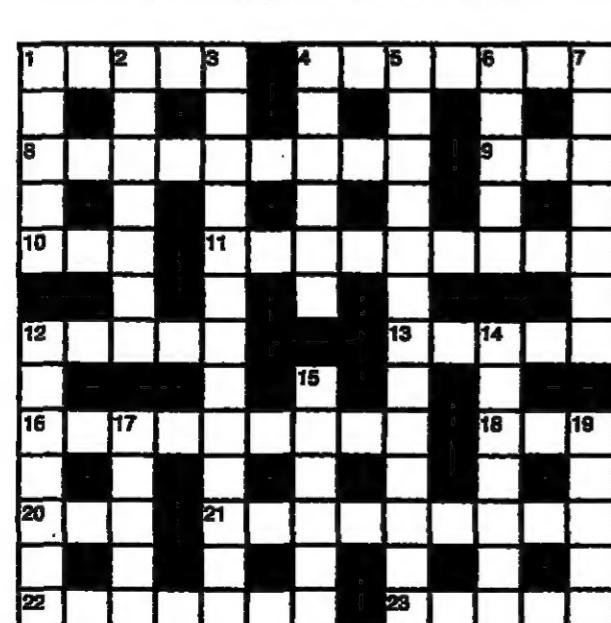
"Wonderfully smooth! A velvety, nutty character! A unique taste and delicate aroma!"

These were just some of the comments the judges of the Pot Still of Glasgow Trophy made about it.

But then, The Singleton has long been favoured by the more discerning malt drinker.



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2930



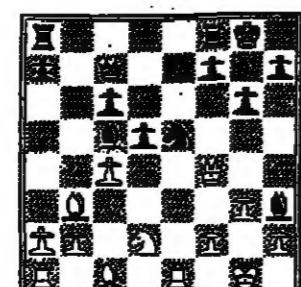
ACROSS
1 Skewered dish (5)
4 Apply for (7)
8 Irritation (9)
9 Worthless goods (3)
10 Entire group (3)
11 Work out (9)
12 Show basin (5)
13 Documentary (5)
14 Decayed (4-5)
15 Male sheep (3)
20 Cassie drink (3)
21 Water/land creature (9)
22 Somewhere else (4-3)
23 Keen (5)

DOWN
1 Australian "bear" (5)
2 Bodged (7)
3 Socially unacceptable (6-3-4)
4 Default (6)
5 Survey form (13)
6 In addition (5)
7 Selected (7)
12 Simple music type (7)
13 Wave boarding (7)
14 Fortune-telling pack (5)
15 Basic (6)
17 Fortune-telling pack (5)
19 Inferior (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2929
ACROSS: 1 Rip off, 5 Resent, 8 Stud, 9 Recharge, 10 Crooks, 12 Ech., 13 Coldbloodedly, 16 Zero, 17 Astir, 19 Trembled.
DOWN: 2 Interpose, 3 Odd, 4 Fire sale, 5 Rock, 6 Shamless, 7 Nag, 11 Odd job man, 13 Call signs, 14 Colander, 18 Alas, 20 Rac., 21 Cob.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is a possible variation from Oravecky-Bubnov, Correspondence 1926. White's queen-side pieces are in hibernation and his king-side has been seriously compromised — classic ingredients for a winning combination. Black to play. Solution below.

Champion must meet London victor

JOSÉ Suliman, the president of the World Boxing Council (WBC), gave a warning yesterday to Evander Holyfield, the world heavyweight champion, and Riddick Bowe, who meet on November 13 in Las Vegas (Srikumar Sen writes).

If the winner of the bout defended against anyone other than the winner of the final eliminator between Lennox Lewis, of Britain, and Dono-

van "Razor" Ruddock, of Canada, in London on Saturday, the WBC would declare the winner of the Lewis-Ruddock bout the world champion.

Suliman said: "Holyfield and Bowe must start negotiations within 30 days of their fight or lose WBC recognition." He issued the warning following attempts by Mickey Duff, the London promoter, to secure a bout for Frank Bruno

with Holyfield before Lewis or Ruddock. Bowe's manager, too, Rock Newman, had been reported as saying he would not meet the winner of the London eliminator first if his man won.

Lou Duva, gave an assurance on behalf of Holyfield's manager, Dan Duva, that the world champion would defend against Lewis or Ruddock first. "Definitely, Hol-

dyfield is the winner," Lou Duva said. "Derek Angel is to get a rematch with Akim Tafari after losing a European cruiserweight title bout against the Frenchman last week.

Karl Thompson, of Manchester, has been ordered to defend his British title against Johnny Nelson, the former British and European cruiserweight champion.